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OPINION METER

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PHASE 6
As of October 14, 2009

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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Noynoy On Top
Opposition Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III topped an independent survey Wednesday as the most popular choice to succeed Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in next year's election.

World...Page 16

In Defense of Obama
One judge noted with surprise that President Barack Obama "didn't look particularly happy" at being named the Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Another marveled at how critics could be so patronizing.

Life & Style...Page 18

CNMI to issue two-year 'umbrella permit' for nonresident workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Thousands of alien workers are expected to benefit from the CNMI government's policy that will give them two-year work permits before the federalization of local immigration takes place on Nov. 28, 2009.

RELATED NEWS
- Foreign students to receive consideration under federalization. **PAGE 2**

The government is targeting Oct. 20 to 30, 2009 as the issuance dates of the two-year permit for nonresident workers with lawful status.

The government will disclose to the public more details of the policy during a press conference at the Department of Labor at 3pm today, Thursday.

Two lawyers representing the government and a lawyer advocating the rights

See CNMI on Page 4

Navy top brass visits Saipan, Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Navy Undersecretary Robert O. Work led a 23-member military team in a quick visit to Saipan and Tinian yesterday afternoon before going back to Guam, the latest in a series of visits by key military officials to the Marianas as the region prepares for a $15-billion, multi-year buildup in Guam.

See NAVY on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office's Ruth Coleman, foreground left, ushers Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps General James F. Amos, foreground second from left, and at least 22 other military officers led by U.S. Navy Undersecretary Robert O. Work on their way to meet with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Inset shows Work and Inos in the governor's conference room where they held a closed-door meeting, before the military officials also visited the Tinian Northfield.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Assistant Attorney General Megan Hasselshearer, Medical Referral Office director Ron Sablan, and Assistant Attorney General Michael Ernest review documents during the first day of the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee's oversight hearings on Department of Public Health issues yesterday afternoon.

Lawmakers grill DPH on medical referral issues

$319,580 contract, patient abandonment questioned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
- Lawmaker calls for Villagomez's resignation at DPH. **PAGE 7**

Lawmakers yesterday grilled Department of Public Health officials on medical referral issues that included a $90,000 contract that ballooned to $319,580, patient complaint of abandonment in Manila, $720,000 in medical evacuation costs, and lack of

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Engine's low oil pressure causes power interruption. **PAGE 2**
Villagomez, Santos couple re-file motion for their release. **PAGE 3**

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Local

Foreign students to receive consideration under federalization

As a result of recent meetings held by Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and Commerce Secretary Michael Ada in Washington, D.C., local schools and foreign students stand to benefit from a special expedited program designed to help CNMI schools gear up for the federalization of immigration under U.S. Public Law 110-229.

A team of officials from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, Department of Homeland Security in Arlington, Virginia will arrive on Saipan in November to expedite the processing of school qualifications.

This one-time program is designed specifically for the CNMI and will result in qualified schools receiving on-the-spot SEVP certification.

The certification and accompanying online training will be the first part of a two-step process designed to help foreign students now in the CNMI receive U.S. visas that will be necessary to continue their studies with exit and re-entry privileges after the full implementation of federalization.

The program, which will include close on-site coordination with private schools and the Northern Marianas College, will pave the way for a continuation of foreign student education as a complimentary companion to the CNMI's tourism industry.

Ada first met with SEVP officials on Sept. 22 in Arlington, Virginia, where the idea of expedited processing was raised. SEVP certification is a requirement for all schools with U.S. immigration jurisdiction to host foreign students.

The meeting was followed up last week by Inos, who met with officials from the U.S. State Department and a representative of SEVP in Washington, D.C.

"Federalization of immigration has been an extremely difficult issue for the CNMI and I would like to thank the director of SEVP, Mr. Louis Farrell and his team for recognizing the CNMI's unique circumstances. In our meeting, Mr. Farrell came up with the idea of sending a team to the CNMI to expedite certification for the schools, which normally takes many months," said Ada.

Inos met with State Department officials on Oct. 6 for a further briefing on the program and the second step in the process, which is the processing of different types of U.S. student visas.

"Certifying our schools is the necessary first step to the CNMI continuing to welcome foreign students to our islands. However, the governor and I have been equally concerned that after Nov. 28, our existing foreign students might not be able to exit and then re-enter following the Christmas holiday break. This could interfere with these students' plans to see their families—not to mention the potential impact on local private schools and NMC," said Inos. "The State Department assured me that with some planning on their part, our students will get expedited processing at U.S. embassies abroad so they can return to the CNMI following their vacations."

Inos reiterated that an education campaign on how the schools and students of different nationalities can qualify will be forthcoming from the SEVP team. Student advisors in the schools will also play a key role going forward. The processing time for students of different nationalities will vary and will require some advance planning if students wish to exit for the 2009 holiday break.

"This assurance and the upcoming visit of the SEVP team to the CNMI is one of the most pro-active steps we have seen during the federalization transition thus far," said Inos. "The Office of the Governor and Secretary of Commerce will coordinate this program closely with SEVP and the State Department over the coming month."

According to the CNMI Department of Commerce, which currently overseas foreign student regulations in the Commonwealth, these students currently represent approximately $1.6 million in benefits to the CNMI economy or roughly $20,000 per student per year in annual expenditures when considering tuition, housing, and on-island purchases.

"We greatly appreciate the cultural exchange opportunities these students bring to our community, not to mention the economic benefits of keeping and growing our education industry," said Inos. "Most importantly, we want these students to know that they can stay after federalization, finish their studies, and if they want to go home to visit their families during the holidays, they can do so and are welcome to come back to our islands," said Inos. ***(PR)***

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Engine's low oil pressure causes power interruption

Low oil pressure on one of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s diesel engines was the culprit behind the power interruption experienced by a number of villages on Saipan yesterday.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said that feeders 2 and 4 were manually opened in power plant 1 because diesel engine 6 tripped due to low oil pressure.

"The operators manually opened it in order to protect the power plant from going down, blacking out the entire island," he explained.

Malae admitted that since Wednesday afternoon, CUC has had insufficient reserves because one engine in power plant 1 was down for scheduled maintenance, while the two engines at power plant 4 were down for scheduled maintenance.

He said the last portion of feeder 4 was restored in 38 minutes.

Capital Hill, which was among the villages affected in yesterday's power outage, is in feeder 4.

Malae said that stimulus funding is now helping CUC to purchase oil separators that will help eliminate oil pressure problems with diesel engine No. 6 as well as others.

"The problem with the oil separators were identified back in April but the procurement procedures at CUC are just too much like that of a government department rather than a utility," he said, describing it as "tortuous" and as slow as molasses.

Malae said CUC is now working on this area as well as the engines, power distribution, water lines, sewer lines, sewer treatment plants, waste oil, and other concerns of the utility. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

A Strategic Approach Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complementary Support to DoD Guam

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, the SEDC, and Department of Commerce have sponsored and released a Draft for Public Comment

Go to http://www.commerce.gov.mp/
See "What's New" in October on Welcome Page (at bottom of page)

DRAFT CNMI - Strategic Approach to Military 090CT2009

Send Comments to: commercedept@pticom.com
Comment Period will end October 16th, 2009

Japanese Festival set for Oct. 24

The Japanese Society of NMI will hold its annual Japanese Festival on Oct. 24 at the Garapan Central Park.

The event will start at 9:30am with a garage sale. It will be followed by the festival opening with traditional ceremony on the Katori Shrine at Sugarking Park at 10am.

After the ceremony, a mini concert headlined by Kiyomi Suzuki will be held, followed by Yasakoi Dancing team and Japanese Bon Dancing. There will also be a lot of food stands, game stands, bazaars, and many more.

For more information, contact 483-5100 or 234-1210. ***(PR)***

Villagomez, Santos couple re-file motion for their release

As 9th Circuit denies defendants' motion for bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos have renewed their motion in federal court for their release pending appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Villagomez and the Santos couple re-filed their motion to release following the Ninth Circuit's decision issued on Sept. 18, 2009 that denied their motion for bail pending appeal.

Attorney David J. Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, informed U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson that the Ninth Circuit denied their motion because Munson has not issued yet a final order on the release issue.

"In compliance with the Ninth Circuit's decision we are resubmitting the motion and a proposed order," said Lujan in a letter to Munson.

In the defendants' motion to release, Lujan said there is clear and convincing evidence that Villagomez and the Santos couple are neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Lujan also cited the existence of appellate issues which he said should be deemed "fairly debatable" and hence "substantial" within the meaning of the statute as construed by relevant Ninth Circuit precedent.

"Given their background, their ties to both family and the community, and record of appearances and good conduct since their indictment in this case a year ago, the defendants do not expect the government to vigorously oppose their release pending appeal on the ground that they presents either a flight risk or a danger to the community," Lujan said.

Lujan said Villagomez is extremely close with his entire family, having been raised by parents who encouraged their children to remain close to each other.

"Likewise, the Santoses are lifelong residents of the CNMI. They have children of their own and maintain a residence on Saipan," the lawyer said.

Lujan said the defendants have no prior criminal record nor engaged in any substance abuse or other type of dissolute conduct.

He said if the defendants have raised a "fairly debatable" claim of bias on the part of a single juror, they have met a statutory test for entitlement to release pending appeal.

But the U.S. government disagrees.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said in this case, there was no evidence that the jurors actively withheld information or were even aware of the alleged relationships.

In the U.S. government's opposition to the motion, O'Malley said each juror in this case "stated under oath that they were able to take the evidence as it was presented and make an impartial decision based solely on the evidence before them."

"Thus, this court rightfully concluded there was no juror bias, actual or implied, based on facts (as presented by the defendants) that were plainly covered by existing precedent," O'Malley added.

Last Aug. 14, Villagomez, through counsel Leilani Lujan, withdrew in its entirety his motion for release pending appeal and instead filed an appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

"Given the court's explicit predisposition to again deny a request by Mr. Villagomez for release pending appeal, a hearing on the matter plainly would be an exercise in futility," said Ms. Lujan in her declaration.

Villagomez, was taken last month to the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona to serve his seven years and three months sentence for his role in the same corruption case.

Joaquina Villagomez-Santos is now at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California to serve her six years and six months sentence for her participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Joaquina Santos's husband, James A. Santos, was brought to the United States Penitentiary (USP)-Victorville in Alelanto, California, to serve his six years and six months in prison for his involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Villagomez and the Santos couple were flown out from Saipan last Aug. 24 to begin serving their sentences in federal prison.

The three appealed their convictions and sentences to the Ninth Circuit.

GTC RENOVATION MOVES FORWARD CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bob Florian of the Department of Procurement and Supply signs a construction contract for Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, while Gov. Bengino R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and Public School System staff look on.

Another tropical depression may pass south of NMI as tropical storm

NWS urges people to restock typhoon emergency kits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Another tropical depression formed near Chuuk and is expected to pass south of the Marianas as a tropical storm tonight, Thursday.

As this developed, the National Weather Service in Guam advised the people of the CNMI to be ready for damaging winds well before a tropical storm watch or warning is declared.

"The fact that recent threats to the Marianas—typhoons Choi-Wan and Melor passed just north of Saipan without major damage to the southern Marianas can often lead to a sense of complacency when later dangers arise. Do not fall into that trap," NWS said.

NWS notified the people that now is a good time to review preparedness procedures and urged the residents to restock typhoon emergency kits.

As of 1pm, the center of Tropical Depression 22W was located 160 miles north of Chuuk or 560 miles east-southeast of Guam and Rota, and 570 miles southeast of Saipan and Tinian.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 30 miles per hour, NWS said, the depression is expected to intensify and may become a tropical storm within the next 24 hours.

"It is expected to move west-northwest over the next 24 hours…passing south of the Marianas Thursday night," NWS said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised the people, including those residing on Agrihan, to closely monitor the tropical depression.

As of 3pm, no tropical cyclone watch or warning currently is in effect for the Marianas.

Fitial and the Emergency Management Office also notified the public that increasing winds and building seas from newly formed Tropical Depression 22W will begin impacting the southern coastal waters by late Thursday.

Fitial strongly advised the public, especially beachgoers and inexperienced mariners operating small vessels, to avoid navigating in these conditions.

October and November are the peak months for tropical cyclone activity in Micronesia.

NWS said weak disturbances can quickly intensify during this time of year in this part of the western Pacific called Typhoon Alley.

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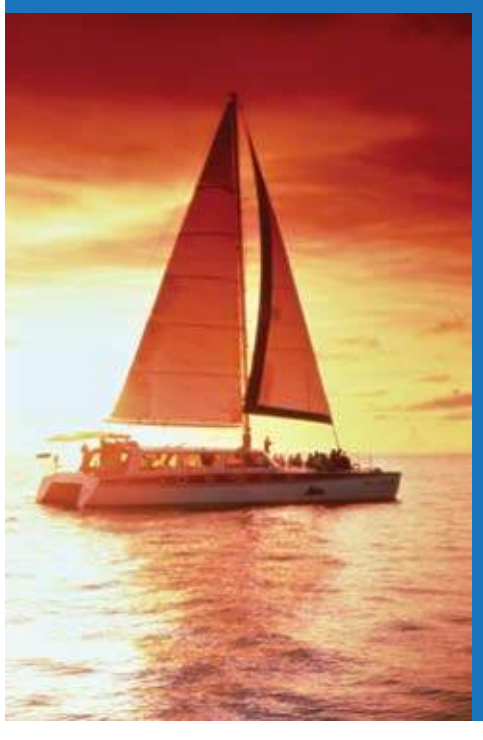

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Cultural Heritage Month draws thin crowd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The four-day celebration for the Commonwealth Cultural Heritage Month last week drew thin crowds, according to Carolinian Affairs Office executive director Anggie Mangarero.

She said only four schools took part in the three traditional competitions that included a speech contest in vernacular, the challenge bowl, and the traditional costume competition.

Mangarero said only less than 30 students competed in all these categories compared to hundreds of participants in previous stagings of the competitions.

The executive director described last week turnout at the festival as the "poorest" in years.

CAO, in collaboration with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, set the festivities from Oct. 9 through Oct. 12 in time for the Cultural Day celebration.

Booths catering to various foods and crafts were also stationed at the Chamolinian Village in Garapan.

However, vendors interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* expressed disappointment on the low turnout of the celebration. In fact, most of them packed their products on the second day as a result of slow sales.

Mangarero said because of their cooperation, Tanapag Elementary, Oleai Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Hopwood Junior High School were conferred certificates of appreciation and monetary assistance for the development of their Chamorro/Carolinian Language Heritage Studies curriculums.

When asked about the factors of the "very low turnout," Mangarero said that the bad economy was among them.

"People did not come and participate because they're saving their gas," she said.

Disappointed with the result, Mangarero said she will encourage the festival committee to make the celebration a one-day affair next year.

"I think that will work better…" she said.

Besides the economy, the executive director said that some events were also slated during the weekend such as the primary grade forensic league, math court, thespian society—all held at Dandan Elementary School.

Mangarero lauded the consistent support of the Refaluwasch Golf Association during the festivities.

Despite the disappointing turnout, CAO said the traditional celebration will continue.

"We will continue to encourage our people to speak, read, and write our language," she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WIA launches new website

The Workforce Investment Agency officially launched its new website last week and it can be accessed through www.wia.gov.mp. According to WIA director Edith Deleon Guerrero, "The intent of this site is to make it the CNMI's virtual OneStop [job center], thus linking most, if not all, state partner agencies for easy access for businesses and individuals." She said WIA will provide Office of Personnel Management access to start posting their job vacancies online. ***(PR)***

Mayoral faceoff on Marianas Agupa

Saipan mayoralty candidates Jose Sanchez and Juan Demapan will appear on the Chamorro talk show, "Marianas Agupa," between 9am and 9:30am this Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009 on Magic 100.3. "Marianas Agupa" is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and will have Sanchez, a former educator, and Demapan, a former Senate president as guests this weekend. Both candidates will be asked questions on their plans for the island of Saipan. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this coming Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast will also be available on www.magic100radio.com. ***(PR)***

KKA gubernatorial forum on Oct. 23

The Kagman Komunidat Association will be hosting a gubernatorial forum at the Kagman Community Center on Oct. 23 at 7pm. KKA encourages undecided voters to attend and share their concerns. For more information, contact KKA president, Jesse Torres at kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

employees processing patient referrals.

A power outage on Capital Hill at 3:47pm yesterday also temporarily halted by over 20 minutes the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare's oversight hearings on DPH which continue today and tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, who has been on medical leave for months and his temporary successors also either on medical leave or off-island frequently, should be asked to resign if he is "unable to carry out his duties."

"The lack of stable and professional management at CHC (Commonwealth Health Center) and the resulting deterioration of healthcare services are clearly and gravely endangering the health and safety of the entire community," Sablan said on Tuesday.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan is also currently on medical leave.

During yesterday's oversight hearing, House HEW Committee vice chair Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan) asked whether Untalan was referred to the Philippines for medical treatment.

Medical Referral Officer director Ron Sablan, assisted by Assistant Attorneys General Michael Ernest and Megan Hasselshearer, said this is private patient matter that cannot be disclosed.

From $90,000 to $319,580

After Apatang posed a few more questions along the same line, House HEW Committee chair Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) turned to the issue of DPH's $90,000 contract with Saipan Employment Agency and Services Inc. (SEAS) signed in April 2007 that ended up at $319,580 as of April 2009.

Ron Sablan, assisted by DPH chief financial officer Esther Muna and again by Ernest and Hasselshearer, said the original $90,000 was for $7,500 in monthly payment to SEAS for every 15 or less patients referred in Manila.

Every excess patient costs an additional $400.

"We had contract amendments done to cover additional expenses," Sablan said, referring to previous additions to the contract of $142,500, as well as previous deductions of $2,920.

He said there are months when the number of patients referred to Manila hospitals exceeds 15, and sometimes reaching some 45 so from $7,500, the monthly costs reach $12,000.

Sablan also said that a change order extended the contract with SEAS by another year ending on May 1, 2010. This means an additional $90,000.

Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) asked whether DPH's Medical Referral Office is still charged $7,500 a month even if the number of patients is below 15.

Sablan said yes, but said it never happens that the number falls below 15.

Santos also asked Sablan on the number of patients who passed away while waiting to be referred, to which Sablan responded, "three or four" since he became director of the Medical Referral Office.

Sablan, however, said that the patients died because their cases got worse, to which Santos followed up with a question on why these patients were not transported when their cases got worse. The medical referral director said such decision rests on physicians.

Other lawmakers present at the hearing were Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Also present at the hearing were two representatives from the Office of the Public Auditor.

Patient abandonment

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said patients have approached lawmakers sharing their ordeal while on medical referral in Manila.

Palacios said SEAS, as a medical referral logistical support contractor in the Philippines, should do a better job in assisting CNMI patients.

But Ron Sablan said these reports of abandonment or maltreatment are "isolated cases."

His request to hire at least three more employees who will help process the papers of medical referral patients also got the support of lawmakers.

"Patient care is always a priority," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Medical referral costs up 17%

Ron Sablan, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during the power outage that temporarily stopped the oversight hearing, disclosed that medical referral costs reached $7.4 million in Fiscal Year 2009, a 17-percent increase over FY 2008's $6.3 million, even as appropriations totaled only $5,000.

The $7.4 million includes the actual costs of treatment and other medical care, as well as expenses related to transporting and accommodating patients and their family and medical escorts to health care facilities in Guam, the Philippines, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

The House HEW Committee posed at least 232 written questions to DPH and subpoenaed dozens of documents as part of an ongoing investigation into the department's management, billing and collections, hiring of doctors, customer service, and handling of a bloated hemodialysis project, among other things.

DPH replied to the questions yesterday, and has so far submitted volumes of documents which the committee is now reviewing.

NAVY

From Page 1

Work's first visit to the CNMI came almost two months after U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus made a quick stop to Saipan on Aug. 24 after also visiting Guam.

Transported by a bus to Capital Hill, Work and the rest of the group met with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos at past 3pm yesterday in the governor's conference room. The closed-door meeting ended at around 3:30pm.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment on the meeting, said Inos was "very pleased to receive our visiting military guests" who "reported on the regional military buildup.

"The administration has established a very good working relationship with the U.S. military, and we look forward to continued communications as we deal with the relocation of U.S. troops into our region," Reyes said.

Besides Work, other military officials in the visiting group included Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps General James F. Amos, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment of the U.S. Department of Defense Dr. Dorothy Robyn, and Brig. Gen. Willian Beydler, director of strategy and plans division of the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters at the Pentagon.

The others were: U.S. Naval Forces Marianas commander Rear Admiral Douglas Biesel; Maj. Gen. David Bice, executive director of the Joint Guam Program Office; JGPO director retired Col. Jon Jackson; and Col. Robert D. Loynd also of the U.S. Marine Corps.

From Saipan, Work and the other top military officials went to Tinian for a brief meeting with Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, according to Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office.

The group then proceeded to the Tinian Northfield and went back to Guam, where they have also been meeting with military officials and local government officials, added Coleman, who helped facilitate the team's travel within the CNMI.

Media availability is scheduled for 2:15pm today at the Andersen Air Force Base Terminal, the U.S. Navy on Guam said yesterday.

Work was confirmed as the undersecretary of the Navy on May 19, 2009. In this capacity, Work serves as the deputy and principal assistant to the secretary of the Navy and acts with full authority of the secretary in the day-to-day management of the Department of the Navy.

In late 2008, Work served on President Obama's Department of Defense Transition Team. In this role, he was the leader of the Department of the Navy issue team, and served on the defense policy, acquisition, and budget teams.

Meanwhile, the deadline for comments on the CNMI's 77-page draft document "A Strategic Approach: Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complimentary [sic] Support to DoD Guam," is Oct. 16.

Among other things, the CNMI plans to provide operational support and services to Guam instead of viewing the neighbor island as a "competition" to maximize benefits from the military buildup in Guam.

The publication of the document marks the first time that the CNMI government has come up with a written plan about its approach to maximize benefits from the movement of some 8,000 Marines from Okinawa to Guam, some 17,000 family members, and up to 20,000 federal construction workers to the island.

A copy of the draft document is now available on the CNMI Department of Commerce website, www.commerce.gov.mp.

Comments on the draft document can be sent to commercedept@pticom.com.

CNMI

From Page 1

of alien workers disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* on Wednesday about the issuance of the two-year "umbrella permit."

Saipan Tribune opted not to disclose their names as they requested not to print the story until the press conference.

Saipan Tribune decided to run the story after Attorney General Ed Buckingham confirmed to KSPN2 yesterday about the government's "umbrella permit" policy.

Buckingham last night confirmed that the plan is to issue two-year permits.

"But I am still reviewing it now and should complete my review on or before noon tomorrow," said the AG in an e-mail.

The government lawyer on Wednesday said everyone who is in the labor system, including those having appeals at Labor or the courts, will get a two-year permit.

The other lawyer stressed that those who can get the two-year permit must have lawful status.

"The idea is to liberalize the labor force. The idea is to give everybody comfort and security. They're not going to be deported," the government lawyer said.

They explained that employers and workers are not going to pay for the "umbrella permits" as they are free.

With the repatriation of over 10,000 garment workers due to closure of the factories since 2006, the lawyer said, the government believes that the alien workers who are currently in the CNMI are the ones needed by the businesses and other employers to support the economy.

The CNMI last year established that the number of alien workers who are present in the CNMI is 22,417. As the economy continued to decline, more alien workers left the CNMI in the past two years. There are only 13,000 estimated alien workers currently in the Commonwealth.

Wiseman dismisses waitress' 5-year-old lawsuit against Labor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday dismissed a waitress' five-year-old lawsuit against the Department of Labor.

Wiseman granted Labor's motion to dismiss Ping Chen's lawsuit because of her failure to prosecute the matter.

"The court recognizes the harsh realities of dismissing cases without determining the merits and prefers not to dispose of cases before litigants have their day in court," the judge said in his ruling.

However, Wiseman said, Chen has been given multiple opportunities to avoid this result, yet has been unable or unwilling to move this matter forward in a meaningful and significant manner.

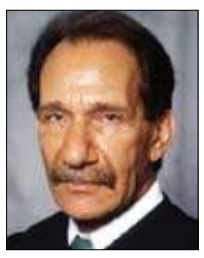
"The languid approach of petitioner (Chen) in this matter unfairly prejudices respondents and unnecessarily burdens this Court's docket," he pointed out.

Wiseman said after multiple warnings and threats which resulted in unchanged conduct, the case would likely remain dormant if the court permitted it to remain on the docket.

Ping was among some alien workers who filed a Labor case in 2003 against their former employer, USA Smile Inc., for unpaid wages and other issues.

In October 2003, then Labor administrative hearing officer Linn Asper recommended that Chen be referred to Immigration for voluntary repatriation based on the belief that her testimony was not credible.

Chen appealed to then Labor Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio. In May 2004, Tenorio issued that affirmed Asper's decision. Tenorio's order contained four sentences.


Wiseman

That same month, Chen, through counsel Stephen Woodruff, filed a petition asking the Superior Court to review Tenorio's decision. Woodruff asserted that the decision contains no reasoned basis for the decision, in violation of her rights to due process of law under the CNMI and U.S. Constitutions.

According to court documents, on Sept. 3, 2003, the court issued an order setting procedural guidelines.

In January 2005, Labor moved to dismiss for lack of prosecution because Chen had taken no action since the guidelines had been issued. Labor subsequently withdrew their motion based on an agreement with Chen's counsel.

The parties agreed to propose and commit to a new procedural schedule.

Chen did not comply with the guidelines as promised when Labor withdrew their motion to dismiss nor did Chen take any further action in this matter.

In August 2005, Labor again moved to dismiss the case for failure to prosecute. In July 2007, the court denied the motion.

Chen, however, was directed to file a notice of completion of handling of the record on or before July 25, 2007. A status conference was set.

The court stated that "failure to strictly follow this order shall result in the immediate dismissal…"

On July 25, 2007, Chen filed a motion for continuance but the motion was not filed pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure. The motion was returned to Chen.

Woodruff did not appear at the status conference. The court set another status conference date.

In August 2007, Chen filed a statement of undisputed and disputed facts.

The court issued an order setting a status conference on Feb. 26, 2009 to determine whether or not the case should remain an active file.

In July 2009, Labor, through assistant attorney general Eli Golob, filed the motion to dismiss for failure to prosecute. Chen filed an untimely opposition on Aug. 20, 2009.

In granting Labor's motion to dismiss, Wiseman said besides the untimely opposition which fails to address the law, Chen has done nothing to move this matter forward since August 2007.

Chen argued that this case is on track for settlement and that Labor prepared settlement documents and forwarded them to Chen but withdrew the settlement offer before the deal could be finalized.

According to Chen, in the weeks prior to Labor filing their most recent motion to dismiss, the parties were engaging in ongoing communications and the case was back on track for settlement.

Wiseman said the argument, however, is unsupported by details regarding when the settlement negotiations took place, when Labor made petitioner an offer, when Labor retracted their offer, or what communication has recently taken place.

"Vague, undetailed claims of settlement negotiations without any evidence, dates, or affidavits to prove the assertion cannot overcome petitioner's unreasonable delay in moving this matter forward," Wiseman said.

Petitioner, the judge said, was cautioned years ago that the continued failure to move this case forward would result in dismissal.

Further, Wiseman said, petitioner was warned in no uncertain terms that the failure to abide by deadlines within the procedural order would result in dismissal.

"Nonetheless, the case remained stagnant. Seemingly, threats of dismissal did not sufficiently motivate petitioner to move this matter forward in a timely fashion. Thus, it seems improbable that additional warnings or sanctions would prompt petitioner to move this case forth," Wiseman added.

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Saipan Tribune

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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, October 16, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. UR Corporation
2. Status of Worldwide Salvage

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
October 14, 2009

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Lawmaker calls for Villagomez's resignation at DPH

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan wants Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez to resign from his post and blames his months-long absence as one of the reasons why DPH is in disarray.

"If Secretary Villagomez is unable to carry out his duties, then we must ask him to resign. And we must further urge that the governor appoint a qualified, experienced, and credible secretary of Public Health to take his place—one who would be prepared and empowered to assemble a professional management team to address the serious problems that plague the Department of Public Health and our hospital," Sablan said in a statement.

Villagomez has been in indefinite leave since 2008.

The lawmaker described as alarming DPH's unresponsiveness to a legislative inquiry. The department also is in hot water lately for submitting inadequate documents to the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

"The Department of Public Health's unresponsiveness to the legislative inquiry is alarming," Sablan said, adding that it is also revealing in that it further underscores the glaring vacuum of leadership that has been created by Villagomez's months-long absence, the constant rotation of acting secretaries that has occurred in his place, and the signals from the governor of his intent to declare a state of emergency and take over operations at the hospital.

Sablan

Though Sablan acknowledged the situation of Villagomez, who reportedly is dealing with personal medical issues, she still emphasized the need to take into consideration the situation of the hospital.

"But where is Secretary Villagomez? I understand that he is dealing with personal medical issues of his own, and certainly we should all extend our sympathies and compassion to him and his family and hope for his recovery. In the meantime, however, what is to become of the hospital, and of all the people of the CNMI who are also suffering from illnesses and injuries of their own?" she asked, adding that the lack of stable and professional management at CHC and the resulting deterioration of healthcare services are clearly and gravely endangering the health and safety of the entire community.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is addressing DPH issues and welcomes the Legislature's support for improvements to the public health care system.

"We should probably work together to address public health care and not play the blame game," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes said when employees or family members of employees have medical issues, they are protected by the Family Medical Leave Act.

Unacceptably deficient

Meantime, Sablan said the public health's response to the committee's inquiry appears to be extremely and unacceptably deficient as none of the over 200 questions was actually answered in writing as ordered by the panel.

She described the submitted documents as rather jumbled compilation of records which include a 2001 memo from the Civil Service Commission on austerity measures, two DPH responses to deficiencies identified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, dated May 2006, a listing of federally funded programs at DPH, organizational charts for Health Information Management and Medical Referral Services; Medical Referral statistics, a fiscal summary report, and a list of Medical Referral medical providers/vendors.

Two polling places changed for general election

Two of the 13 polling places for next month's general elections are new sites, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero yesterday said next month Oleai Elementary School will no longer be used as a polling place and identified the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium as its replacement.

Another change, Guerrero said, is the use of MIHA Housing entrance for those who will cast votes in Garapan Elementary School.

Guerrero said previously, the main entrance of the school was used for the election but because it failed the requirement of 300-foot radius from the polling place, CEC has decided to allow entrance at the northern side of the school.

Oleai Elementary School also failed the same election requirement mandated by Public Law 15-52.

The other 11 designated polling places for the Nov. 7 election includes San Antonio Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, and Koblerville Elementary for Precinct I voters.

The Saipan Northern Islands municipal council building in Chalan Kanoa was approved for Precinct II voters.

In Precinct III, Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Garapan Elementary using the MIHA Housing side are designated to be used on Nov. 7.

There are four polling places approved for Precinct IV: Tanapag Youth Center, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building, and Northern Islands.

Kagman Community Center was designated for Precinct V, while Tinian Elementary School and NMC Rota campus were assigned for Precinct VI and Precinct VII, respectively. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-009

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MARINE ECOLOGIST TO MANAGE THE CORAL REEF AND MARINE AND WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ** AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-010

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"PROJECT MANAGERS TO MANAGE THE LAOLAO BAY RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO **MR. FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEQ** AT (670) 664-8500 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

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/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-011

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **NOVEMBER 02, 2009 AT 9:30 A.M.**, AT THE DEQ MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR GUALO RAI CENTER, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Preservation of historic photos underway

The NMI Council for the Humanities and the CNMI Museum of History and Culture have initiated a project to preserve the islands' historic photographic resources.

The project, funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will digitize old photographs held in family collections in the CNMI. Many photos and slides in these collections are threatened by the tropical climate and in danger of being lost forever.

Interested individuals are invited to bring their family photos to the museum in Garapan on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9am to 12pm. Museum volunteers will carefully produce a digital file for each photograph or slide using a flatbed scanner.

In order to be eligible for this project, the photographic images must be at least 25 years old and depict people and events in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Whenever possible, museum volunteers will collect contextual information about individual photographs from the donors thus increasing their historical value. The digital images will then be added to an historic photograph database that currently is being compiled by the council.

Donors will be provided a CD containing JPEG files of their photographs which can be kept as a backup against loss. These files will also make it convenient to produce prints of old family favorites.

The historic photograph database includes photos taken as early as 1875. It is being developed for public use to promote the study and preservation of the islands' rich history and cultures. Family photos will represent an important addition to this database.

Photographs in this database will not be used for commercial purposes.

Individuals wishing to learn more about this community program are invited to contact the museum staff at 664-2160 or visit the council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

'Thursdays with Tina' tonight

The "Thursdays with Tina" community forum will take place today, Oct. 15, at Minachom Atdao Pavilion starting at 6pm.

This is the second in a series of informal community gatherings where independent Senate candidate Christina-Marie "Tina" Sablan will present her platform, answer questions, and listen to concerns. All are welcome! ***(PR)***

Why we are in this race

These tough economic times call for all of us to pull together to work against a catastrophe that was a long time in the making. Once the envy of the western Pacific, our islands are now derided as a case study of "what not to do." Our Commonwealth needs credible leadership to guide us out of the mess we have created for ourselves.

Many administrations lost their way and too may promises remain unfulfilled. Many of our citizens have left our shores for opportunities elsewhere. It is time for a change.

Those who aspire to lead must pledge to maintain a truly open government and a healthy respect for their constituency. Many problems facing us today are the result of government in the shadows. This is the result of leadership that is unafraid to use its offices to direct undesirable outcomes, and one that eschews public debate, and turns a deaf ear to differing opinions and criticism. Fair play, equal treatment, and public access are fundamental to a free society, and essential to the development of a robust economy.

The Hofschneider and Palacios team will emphasize the principle that hardworking citizens earning an honest day's work should be rewarded with an accountable and transparent government that spends your taxes wisely and enforces the law fairly and in an even-handed way.

You deserve leadership that is transparent, accountable, and accessible. We hear your concerns, your frustrations, and your cry for help. These conversations have greatly influenced our decision to offer voters another choice in this year's gubernatorial election.

Together we will build a community that is based on the belief that good ideas, commitment, and action will produce good results - an active commercial environment, security for all our residents, and by example, hope for the future.

On November 7, 2009
Please Vote

#1
HOFSCHNEIDER, Heinz Sablan
PALACIOS, Arnold Indalecio

www.heinzarnold2009.com
Please Vote Republican
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider - Palacios

NMC HR staff complete training to enhance employee database

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of the Northern Marianas College Human Resources Office pose for a photo with Sage Abra software specialist and training facilitator Elizabeth Holland of Holland International.

Staff of the Northern Marianas College Human Resources Office recently underwent a week-long training session to use a software upgrade that is designed to enhance the employee database at the college. This upgrade will enable HR staff to track down employee accomplishments and professional development more efficiently.

The training was for the Sage Abra HR & Payroll program, a software upgrade that the college recently procured, which will afford NMC HR staff access to a more secure and more user-friendly database. The upgrade is also aimed at streamlining the processing time for personnel actions transmitted between the HR and Finance & Budget Offices.

Attendees of the training finished the session equipped with the knowledge and skills to operate the upgrade, which will provide for a better records management and processing and will enhance the college's ability to keep track of current and former employees' portfolios and career patterns and changes.

"The training is part of the college's overall efforts to continuously build staff capacity to improve the services that we provide to current and prospective employees," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "This upgrade is instrumental to the college's efforts to implement and maintain those services."

The week-long training session, which was facilitated by Sage Abra specialist Elizabeth Holland of Holland International, also included demonstrations on the upgrade's other features, such as the production of employee demographics reports and quicker actions on job applications made to the college.

Other components in the upgrade include the recruitment module, which will further enable HR staff to easily match prospective employees to vacant positions at the college, and the Alerts module, which will automatically send reminders to NMC employees regarding pending personnel matters, such as evaluations. ***(PR)***

GOP Precinct III bingo fundraiser this Friday

The Republican Party of the CNMI will hold its Election Precinct III bingo fundraiser tomorrow, Oct. 16, at the Garapan Central Park

Tickets—bingo packages—are for sale at $20 per package and $25 at the door. Each player is guaranteed seven games to make their money back with multiple options and game presentations to give each participant a fair chance in winning additional prizes.

Door opens at 5:30pm, early bird starts at 6:30pm, and package game starts at 7:30pm. All participants must be at least 18 years old.

In addition, all tickets purchased for the Oct. 2, bingo fundraiser are valid for this event.

You may get your tickets by contacting the following individuals and they will assist you: Ana D. Castro at 287-1306; Cheryl D. Salalila at 285-6841. ***(PR)***

Covenant Party raffle drawing on Oct. 17

The Covenant Party Precinct III Club would like to inform the public, especially individuals who purchased raffle tickets for its fundraising, that the drawing of winners is now rescheduled and confirmed for Oct. 17, 2009 from 6pm to 10pm.

The location of the raffle drawing will be behind the Covenant Party headquarters in Gualo Rai (along western portion of Middle Road). Organizers of the raffle said ticket holders don't need to be present to win. ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-006

PURCHASE OF PACIFIC AND ADULT MATERIALS FOR THE TINIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
(This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of Pacific and Adult Materials for the Tinian Public Library.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB09-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, October ~~19~~ 20, 2009.**

Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Monday, October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **October ~~28~~ 29, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **October ~~29~~ 30, 2009**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 5:30 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes. None
   5. Communications
B. Public Comments
C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide
   1. Application for Conditional Use Permit #2009-2672, ECO Oil Company, Ltd.
D. Old Business. None
E. New Business.
   1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment.
F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
G. Miscellaneous
   1. Other Matters
   2. Announcements
   3. Next Meeting
H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the special meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 15, 1999

CUC allots $28 million for fuel

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has increased its budget by some $1.4 million in FY 2000 over last fiscal year to meet increasing fuel costs brought about by high oil prices in the world market, according to officials. Over $28 million or roughly 41 percent of the total fiscal year's budget of $68.4 million have been allotted by the government-owned utility corporation for the purchase of fuel alone to run existing power generators. Yenny Tom, CUC comptroller, attributed the increase to the current costs of petroleum and oil products in the world market, which have jumped in recent months after OPEC decided to slow down in its production to push prices up.

Tourist arrivals jump 13 percent in Sept.

Visitor arrivals for the month of September totaled 40,087, or a 13 percent increase compared to the same period in 1998, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. However, the increase was due to the lower base in September 1998 because of the strike by Northwest Airlines pilots (Aug. 13-Sept. 16, 1998). Overall visitor arrivals in Fiscal Year 1999 slid 7 percent compared to FY 1998, or a total of 491,602. Due to the four charter flights brought in by Japan Airlines from Nagoya during the month, visitor arrivals from Japan rose 16 percent. Arrivals from Japan's major market regions improved as follows: Kanto, 24 percent; Kinki, 10 percent; and Tokai, 29 percent.

Oct. 15, 2001

70 domestic violence cases reported each month

An increasing number of households are slowly changing the image of home as a place where love and understanding overflows. Around 70 cases of domestic violence are reported each month to the Department of Public Safety, or about 630 incidents from January to September this year. A report submitted by the Family Violence Task Force to the Division of Youth Services disclosed that for the first nine months of 2001, an average of 70 criminal complaints were filed to the Public Safety department each month.

New opportunities lay ahead for NMI farmers

A new policy released by US Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman promises vast opportunities for the CNMI's farming sector, offering local farmers a wider market to sell homegrown products beyond the islands' confines. Natural Resources Conservation Service Director Joan Perry delivered the message to CNMI leaders and guests during Friday's unveiling of the new USDA one-stop service center in Beach Road. "This is good news for everybody, with emphasis on the importance of smaller farms and value-added products on smaller farms. The last thing is the collaboration between the agencies of the USDA, which, I think is very significant," said Perry, the NRCS director for the Pacific Basin.

Oct. 15, 2002

Rebate payout deadline nears

Troubled over the trickled and turtle-paced payout of rebate checks amid the fast approaching deadline, the House Committee on Ways and Means yesterday asked the Office of Public Auditor to conduct an audit on the Special Rebate Trust Account. Rep. Stanley T. Torres, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, formally requested Public Auditor Mike S. Sablan to look into the matter, in a letter dated Oct. 14, 2002. The House leader also asked OPA to furnish his committee with a copy of the audit report once it is completed. "We need to know officially what's going on. It's troubling. People are getting frustrated. It's a burden for us," Torres said in an interview yesterday.

New name for Saipan airport

The Saipan International Airport is now the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, after Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law yesterday morning the measure renaming the airport to honor the man who pioneered the modernization of the CNMI's lone international air facility. Babauta signed House Local Bill 13-24 in the presence of Ada himself and his immediate family, as well as the lawmakers who sponsored the bill. Ada, who is the CNMI's very first Lt. Governor and was District Administrator when he initiated the airport project, said yesterday prior to the signing of the bill that he feels honored over the naming of the airport after him.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Reconciling history

More than a million Armenians were massacred in the final years of the Ottoman Empire, from 1915 to 1918. This bloody chapter of World War I should be recognized as genocide and remembered, not only to honor the victims but for its lessons to future generations. It should not, however, prevent Turkey and Armenia from approving the historic accords signed Saturday in Zurich to restore diplomatic ties and open their shared border. Nor should Armenia's fraught relationship with neighboring Azerbaijan—Turkey's ally—derail a rapprochement. The Armenian and Turkish parliaments must ratify the agreements hammered out with the help of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton because reconciliation is in the interests of both nations.

The slaughter is a painful issue for Armenians, particularly so for the diaspora that has fought unsuccessfully for official Turkish and U.S. recognition of the genocide. That is understandable, and they should continue pressing Turkey for an accurate public accounting. Some Armenians fear that the commission to be established under the accords for an "impartial" examination of the massacre is simply a means for Turkey to continue denying history. We also are concerned about this part of the agreement, but we hope in the end it will offer an opportunity for the two sides to face the issue together.

Turkey, meanwhile, should not condition ratification of the accord to open its border on an Armenian withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave of Azerbaijan inhabited largely by ethnic Armenians and occupied by Armenia since 1993. In fact, a thaw in bilateral relations between Turkey and Armenia should make it easier to resolve the issue between Armenia and Azerbaijan. If Armenia feels more secure, it is likely to be more flexible.

As in all negotiations, both sides must give on important issues if they are to alter the stasis. Armenia is economically strangled. Its need for open borders and a lifeline to Western Europe was driven home during the 2008 war in Georgia, when its main trade route was blocked. The country is losing its best and brightest, who have no real prospects at home. Turkey is seeking further integration with Europe and incorporation into the European Union, and Armenia is one of the issues standing in the way; the Turks must confront their past to better their future.

Fortunately, leaders in Turkey and Armenia understand this and should be applauded for the political risk they are taking at the bargaining table—as well as in the soccer stadium. Last year, Turkish President Abdullah Gul attended a World Cup qualifier between the two national teams in Yerevan, Armenia, and now Armenian President Serge Sarkisian says he plans to attend one on Wednesday in Turkey. Their sporting spirit is sending the right message to nationalists in both countries.

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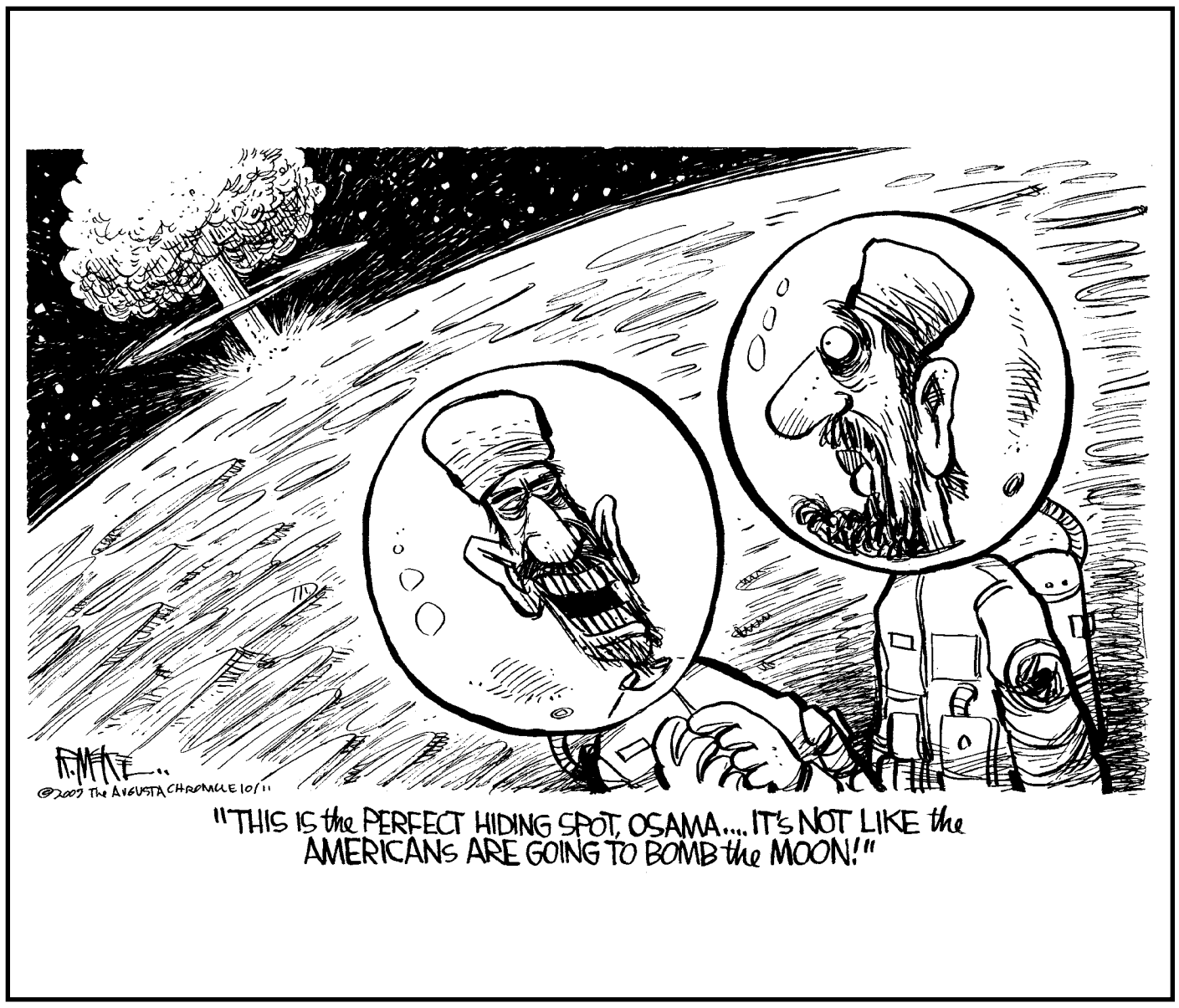
©2007 The Augusta Chronicle 10/11
"THIS IS the PERFECT HIDING SPOT, OSAMA... IT'S NOT LIKE the AMERICANS ARE GOING TO BOMB the MOON!"

Remember not to forget

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Last year I was in the Philippines and I left the hotel room to go to the mall. Normally, I wear shorts that have a zippered pocket on the side where I place important things like my wallet and passport. However, they were being washed so I wore regular slacks to go out. When I returned to the hotel room I started packing for the flight home the next day, but I couldn't find my passport.

The problem is I couldn't remember if I took it with me or left it in the hotel. After frantically searching the entire room and going through my pockets, I retraced all my steps that day and went back to the hotel where I attended a seminar to see if a passport was found, but they didn't have anything. I walked to the Internet café to see if it might have slipped out of my pocket while I was seated, but still no luck. I thought that I might be a pickpocket victim, but I still had my wallet. You can probably imagine the panic that I had being stuck in another country.

After several hours of stressfully searching and then carefully considering the extra days and expense to get another passport so I could return to Saipan, I was mentally exhausted and decided I would just go to sleep, get a good night's rest and deal with it the next day. I woke in the morning with my eyes wide open as I recalled the events of the previous evening. I made one last search through my luggage and had this incredible surge of joy as I felt the passport tucked in the bottom of a zippered pocket on my suitcase.

What this points out is that forgetting where you place things can not only waste a lot of time, but can also be stressful and expensive. As I battle encroaching senile dementia, I've developed several techniques that have served me well most of the time, except for my incident in the Philippines. Let's look at a few tips that can help you to remember not to forget.

I'll discuss the perennial misplaced keys first. You come home and randomly drop your keys somewhere, and later when you look for them you can't find them nor remember what you did with them. The best way to avoid this is to always place your keys in the same spot when you are at home or work. This can be in a drawer, on a hook on a wall, or in a tray. Refuse to put them anywhere else, and you'll end your key hunting activities. Now, if you have small children, it changes the whole dynamics of this strategy unless you put them in a place that is inaccessible—which is nearly impossible with a resourceful child.

Another problem with keys is locking them in your car. Develop a ritual to hold the keys in your hand and consciously feel them or look at them BEFORE you close a locked door. This also works for a locked house or office door. Placing the key in a hide-a-key container and hiding it somewhere also helps as a backup, except you have to remember where you hid it.

There are always things you need to take somewhere, but don't remember about them until you've left the house or office. I put the items in a conspicuous spot that forces me to see them before I leave. If you can hang it, then put it on the doorknob, otherwise put it by the door, preferably someplace where you would trip over it. At home we have the kids put their school items by the door so they only need to pick them up as they leave.

I also have a briefcase, satchel, or box where I organize things based on different responsibilities. One bag is exclusively for work, another one is for church, one bag has all of the items we use for class games or activities, and another plastic container has beach toys. Make sure each container has all the items you need in it so you're always prepared. Mine even has a mini-flashlight, toothbrush and toothpaste, and an air pillow I can use for a quick nap.

In the Air Force, we were required to use a checklist to make sure we covered all the bases. The last thing you want to hear while flying is "oops" because someone forgot to lower the landing gear prior to touchdown. Checklists are essential in business, and they also come in handy at home or for recreational activities. When I was a Scout Master I had a checklist that I used to remember everything for a campout. Invariably, at dinnertime someone would forget to bring something important like food or matches to start the fire.

How about remembering requests or items you need to do, or purchase? There will surely be something you forget unless you write it down. Remember the saying that the dullest pencil is better than the sharpest mind. Lists are very useful when it comes to shopping, traveling, or remembering anything. Make sure you write it down, look at it, and check it off when it's complete. So my strategy the next time I'm in a foreign country and decide to hide my passport somewhere in my room is to write the location on a piece of paper and put it in my wallet or pocket. I tell you, it's tough getting older.

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The new old arms control

By MICHAEL D. GORDIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Gordin is an associate professor of history at Princeton University and the author of the just-released "Red Cloud at Dawn: Truman, Stalin and the End of the Atomic Monopoly."

Attempts to control or reverse nuclear proliferation come in two flavors: Either one tries to control nuclear material (uranium, centrifuges, superfast switches) or one tries to control nuclear information (blueprints, schematics, scientific expertise). For most of the last half a century, the world has shunned the material approach in favor of controlling information. But information is extremely difficult to contain, as is made clear by the growing number of countries that have acquired nuclear weapons in the decades since the United States made the first atomic bomb, from the Soviet Union in 1949 to North Korea in 2006.

The United Nations started out with a materials-centric approach. Almost exactly a year after the San Francisco Charter established the United Nations in June 1945, President Harry S. Truman sent a special envoy there with a proposal to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. At the time—because the only nation with such devices was the U.S.—the move was patently directed at the Soviet Union in an effort to curb it from taking the steps toward nuclear proliferation.

Instead of relying on the standing representative to the fledgling body, Warren Austin, Truman sent Bernard Baruch, a financier and longtime adviser to Democratic presidents since Woodrow Wilson. On June 14, 1946, Baruch unveiled his plan to control nuclear energy, the centerpiece of which was the control of uranium ore. The goal of the proposal, modeled on the ideas of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, as expressed in the Acheson-Lilienthal Report released earlier that year, was to stop proliferation at the source. Global uranium reserves would be internationalized, and scientists worldwide would be required to report clandestine nuclear activities to an international atomic energy authority. No uranium, no bombs. Period.

Global politics, in the end, prevented the Baruch plan from being implemented. But now, after decades of trying instead to control information, the United Nations has once again embraced the idea of controlling materials. Resolution 1887, passed unanimously by the Security Council last month, aims to secure nuclear materials around the world.

The Baruch plan has not fared well with historians and proliferation experts, mostly because it did not fare well with the Soviets. Baruch preserved the key insight of the Acheson-Lilienthal Report about the need to contain uranium ore, but he modified the original proposal in two very significant ways. First, violators would automatically be subject to sanctions—"an international law with teeth in it," as he put it. Second, veto power in the Security Council—a privilege of the victors in World War II (the U.S., the Soviet Union, France, Britain and Republican China) that had been essential to persuade the Soviets to join the world body in the first place—would be suspended only for matters pertaining to atomic energy. This last provision made sense to Baruch and Truman: The Soviets were the most likely to violate the agreement, so allowing them to veto sanctions against themselves would surely be a case of moral hazard.

That change doomed the plan. The Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, Andrei Gromyko, earned the nickname "Mr. Nyet" for his forceful denunciation of the Baruch plan. Correctly sensing that the purpose of the plan was to stymie Soviet proliferation, Gromyko issued a counterproposal a few days later that inverted the order of the American plan: First, nuclear weapons would be abolished and any nuclear nation (that is, the U.S.) would have to destroy its stockpile, and then all uranium reserves could be internationalized.

As a nonproliferation strategy, the Gromyko plan made no sense. There was no political or military logic for the U.S. to voluntarily disarm without guarantees that other powers would be prevented from covertly arming. There was no way the Americans would agree to his proposal, but Gromyko argued skillfully that the suspension of the veto would violate the U.N. Charter and tied the Baruch plan down in procedural debates until November 1949. By that point, the Soviets had the bomb, the issue was moot, and arms control went back to the drawing board.

An unintended casualty of the failure of the Baruch plan was to marginalize the idea of controlling proliferation through controlling nuclear materials. Uranium ore was no longer at center stage. Both superpowers had nuclear weapons, and arms control shifted to controlling the number of weapons and keeping a lid on the "know-how" of making bombs. But information tends to slip through cracks, and the rest, sadly, is now history.

The new U.N. resolution, and the approach it embodies, is tremendously encouraging. The most crucial issue now is not to replay the procedural quagmire of 1946-49, and bring the attention squarely and permanently back on materials.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to Judge Govendo

I expect this will be one of nine letters addressed to you in newspapers in the upcoming days.

Your recent letter to the editor raises some important concerns and it is not too late to have your suggestions integrated into the existing Laolao Bay Road Improvement Plan.

There has been a plan to pave Laolao Road for several years now and it is only now moving forward because the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has made funding available.

Believe it or not, it is not the federal Department of Transportation paving the road, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is involved because the diversity of corals and percentage of coral coverage in Laolao Bay has decreased significantly in recent decades. The scientists tell us it is because of sediment laden storm runoff from the coral road and recently burned private lands in the watershed smothering the reef.

The road is being paved to reduce the sediment from one of those sources, the coral graded roads. The plan also includes the installation of stream drainage improvements, which will further help reduce sedimentation, and barricading vehicular access to the beach, which will protect important turtle nesting habitat and endemic medicinal plants. The plan also improves on the dive site and pedestrian beach access.

This, however, does not address your concern of bad drivers, but I do not think it is to have your concerns heard.

There was a public meeting hosted by NOAA on this issue in Kagman on Sept. 21 of this year and Kathleen Hermann explained in detail the plan. Phase I of the plan has not yet been implemented and I do not believe a contractor has been hired to redesign the plans drawn by Tim Lang of Coastal Resource Management Office in 2005 (the plans have to be redrawn to account for four years of further erosion). When those plans are redrawn, I hope that your concerns can be included.

I would recommend the construction of a separate bicycle lane, speed bumps, and a railing along the dangerous cliff.

Your letter raises a much larger issue, however, as Laolao Road is not the only road that is dangerous on Saipan. As a child I remember asking my stepmother why there were no sidewalks on Saipan and I distinctly remember being dissatisfied with her answer.

Years later I read a great book by James Howard Kunstler called *Geography of Nowhere* and found a much better answer: Before World War II, America (and Saipan) built villages and towns for people; After World War II, America (and Saipan) built villages and towns for cars.

You can see this by comparing the old villages of Chalan Kanoa, Garapan, Oleai, and Tanapag to the newer villages of Kagman, Dandan, and Koblerville.

The focus of those older villages is the church. The houses and businesses are built around the church. And everything from your school, to the corner shop, to your uncle's house is within walking distance. The newer villages planned for no church. No school. No businesses. And to go anywhere you have to drive.

Several years ago I wrote a letter to the editor called "Imagine the New Garapan" where I describe how Traditional Neighborhood Development could be applied to our tourist district.

The Saipan of tomorrow could be a lot like the Saipan of old if we plan for it. Village planning can make our streets safer, especially if we plan them so that walking and biking is as convenient as driving.

I apologize for this short rendition of my vision of the New Saipan, but this is supposed to be just a simple letter to the editor. I hope I answered your questions and if you would like to discuss this or any other issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Angelo O'Connor Villagomez
Democratic Nominee for Mayor of Saipan

Complimentary vs complementary

Is it any wonder the CNMI is not held in high regard in the nation's capital? Version 2.2 of the draft, "A Strategic Approach Utilizing CNMI's Natural Resources to Provide Complimentary Support to DOD Guam"—just released for comment through a big notice in the newspaper—would have the reader believe that all of the services mentioned would be free.

That is what "complimentary" means.

The word that should have been used is complementary. That word means "supporting."

How appalling that no one in the CNMI's administration is sufficiently literate to have caught the error, which even appears on the web version.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag

We welcome Guam military buildup

Yes, definitely we support Guam on the military buildup for we do need a boost in our current economic situation. Given the fact that our airports and seaports are capable of handling any form of aircraft or ships it will be a major plus to our current predicaments.

Our homeland's natural resources and proximity does gives us a unique competitive advantage with excellent options for training and support services which eventually will lead to employment for our people and the much needed economic revenues. Knowing the military they normally set up their own facilities such as warehouses, administrative and operational offices, stores, services stations, and so forth, much like our neighboring island of Guam. Bare in mind that the federal government (military) does own two-thirds of Tinian, so most likely concentration will be on Tinian.

As for training purposes the the island of Pagan had been mentioned as a possible training ground. Our leaders need to wake up and find a way to retrieve our natural resources—POZZOLAN—that has been laying around on the island. We need to retrieve it and invest it abroad for it does belong to the people of the Commonwealth or will they act on the issue when its already to late and the federal government controls our natural resources.

Also, the leasehold on Farollon De Medinilla a military target range needs to be renegotiated since their will be an increased activity within those areas that were not part of our previous negotiations and what will the impact be on habitants and fishermen around those areas. As for Saipan itself, its more a recreational rest (RR) get-away place and hopefully our infrastructure such as water and sewer, especially our power generation can sustained such spillovers.

Then again, we could get the needed expertise from federal government themselves utilizing their military engineers to improve our infrastructures, which they are very capable of achieving with less funding and no politics involved.

Our leaders seriously need to be on the horn working closely with officers in charge with such a major military buildup in the Marianas, and ensure that we are prepared to meet the demands. On another serious note, I am curious though as to why Japan shouldered millions to pay for the Marines relocation to the island of Guam from Okinawa and for whatever reason other than National Security I hope that the federal government had rectified that situation and ensured that such incidents do not happen in our community, something I am looking into.

Again, we welcome the military buildup.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano president

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

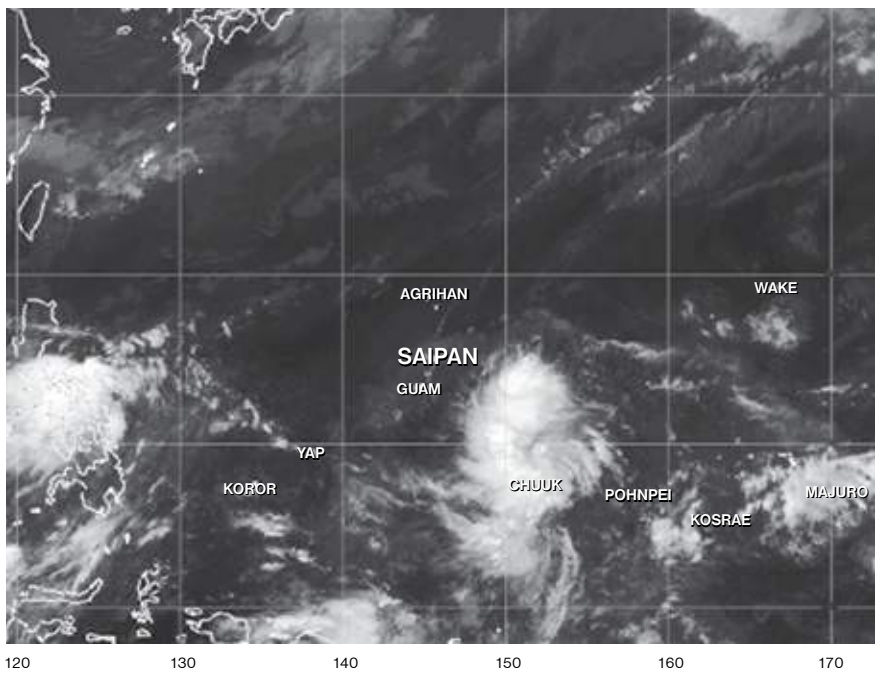
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65	▼56
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼54
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼62
Manila	Showers	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲60	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼75
New York	Showers	▲50	▼44
Osaka	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲73	▼52
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼40
Salem	Rain	▲68	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲72	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼55
Washington, DC	Rain	▲44	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from the Central Philippines Across 11N130E to near Yap at 8N138E then eastward to a developing circulation near 10N151E currently the subject of a tropical formation alert then southeastward to end at EQ163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms association with the circulation are between 5N and 15N from 147E to 155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are northwest of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 14N130E to 10N137E and between 1N and 5N from 146E to 153E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae between 3N and 7N from 159W to 162E and across the Marshall Islands between 4N and 10N from 165E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:32 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:07 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:37 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:58 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:04 AM	2:53 PM
Friday	3:02 AM	3:36 PM
Saturday	3:58 AM	4:17 PM
Sunday	4:53 AM	4:59 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:27 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Ford adds 4.5M vehicles to defective switch recall

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. said Tuesday it will add 4.5 million older-model vehicles to the long list of those recalled because a defective cruise control switch could cause a fire.

The latest voluntary action pushes Ford's total recall due to faulty switches to 14.3 million registered vehicles over 10 years, capping the company's largest cumulative recall in history involving a single problem.

The recall covers 1.1 million Ford Windstar minivans that had a small risk of fire due to internal leaking from the switches. Ford said in a letter to federal regulators that it found a small number of reported fires linked to the problem during an internal investigation that began last year, but did not specify how many.

The remaining 3.4 million vehicles are Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models. Ford said there were no reports of fires with those models, most of them trucks and sport utility vehicles, but that they were included in the recall because they use the same switches. All vehicles covered by the recall are from the 1992 to 2003 model years.

Ford advised owners of all vehicles covered by the recall to park them outside until they are mailed instructions by the end of the month on how to get repairs.

The Dearborn, Mich.-based automaker has struggled for a decade with the problem, which has prompted hundreds of complaints and dozens of lawsuits over fires allegedly caused by faulty switches. A small number of injuries have also been linked to the problem, though none were reported in the latest recall. Previous recalls included some of Ford's most popular brands, like the popular F-series of pickup trucks.

Treasury said to be unprepared on AIG bonus plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The pitched drama over bonuses for bailed-out executives will be revived on Capitol Hill Wednesday as a government watchdog explains how some executives nearly brought down the financial system—then pocketed millions.

Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general for the $700 billion financial rescue program, will answer questions about a new report outlining the official missteps that led to massive bonus payments for executives at insurer American International Group Inc.

In a report released Tuesday, Barofsky wrote that the Treasury Department did not understand AIG's byzantine pay structures when it gave the firm billions in aid last fall. The government has committed a total of more than $180 billion to wind down the New York-based insurance and financial services conglomerate, and now owns about 80 percent of the company.

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Public Education on "Open Government Act of 2007"

Question: Do you approve of the popular initiative entitled the "Open Government Act of 2007," to amend 1 CMC §9913 to read as follows: "§9913. Legislative Branch: Applicability. The Commonwealth Legislature, including all Commonwealth legislators and the Legislative Bureau, shall be subject to 1 CMC §9901, et seq. The respective rules and procedures of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Bureau shall be in compliance with this Chapter." Yes or No.

Proposed Purpose: "The people of the Commonwealth find and declare that they do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. It is the intent of this Initiative Petition that the Commonwealth Legislature, including all Commonwealth legislators and the Legislative Bureau, shall be subject to Public Law 8-41, the Open Government Act, 1 CMC §§ 9901, et seq.

General Summary: If this initiative is approved, the Open Government Act outlined in Public Law 8-41 will apply to the legislature. The Open Government Act ensures that the general public remains informed on the issues that their elected officials bring in front of the legislature. All Legislative meetings are announced ahead of time, and final action is not taken unless the public has had a chance to comment on the measure.

(1) The legislature would have to give seventy-two hours (3 days) notice of its agenda to the general public. This notice is to be published in the media in order to allow the general public to make comments or attend meetings where issues that are important to them will be discussed.

(2) During legislative meetings all "persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the governing body of a public agency."

(3) The legislature must afford all individuals an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, in writing on any agenda item.

(4) No ordinance, rule, resolution, law, regulation, etc. may be adopted except in a meeting open to the public.

(5) Final action may only be taken on an ordinance, rule, resolution, law, regulation, etc. at a meeting that has been fixed by law or rule or by which notice has been given in accordance with the Open Government act (either 72-hour notice or if it is an emergency an emergency meeting can be called).

(6) In times of emergency, a meeting may be called without needing to give 72 hours' notice. However, the legislature must "(a) state in writing the reasons for its finding that an emergency exists; (b) take a vote whereby two-thirds of all members to which the board is entitled agree that an emergency exists; (c) file an emergency agenda and the findings on emergency in official records of the governing bodies."

(7) Lastly, this initiative entitles the public to inspect within ten days of a request all public records, unless specifically exempted within Section 19 of the law.

Nation

Health bill clears hurdle with support from Snowe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Historic legislation to expand U.S. health care and control costs won its first Republican supporter Tuesday and cleared a key Senate hurdle, a double-barreled triumph that propelled President Barack Obama's signature issue toward votes this fall in both houses of Congress.

"When history calls, history calls," said Maine Republican Olympia Snowe, whose declaration of support ended weeks of suspense and provided the only drama of a 14-9 vote in the Senate Finance Committee. With her decision, the 62-year-old lawmaker bucked her own leadership on the most high-profile issue of the year in Congress, and gave the drive to remake health care at least a hint of the bipartisanship that Obama seeks.

At the White House, Obama called the events "a critical milestone" toward remaking the nation's health care system. He praised Snowe as well as Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the committee, and declared, "We are going to get this done."

There were fresh challenges. Within minutes of the vote, labor unions and large business organizations both demanded changes in the bill, which was an attempt at a middle-of-the-road measure fashioned by the committee under Baucus' leadership.

Still, nearly nine months after the president pledged in his Inaugural Address to tackle health care, legislation to expand coverage to millions who lack it has now advanced further than President Bill Clinton's ill-fated effort more than a decade ago—or any other attempt in more than a generation.

The next move in the Senate is up to Majority Leader Harry Reid, whose office said the full Senate would begin debate on the issue the week of Oct. 26.

Nominally, Reid must first blend the bill that cleared during the day with a version that passed earlier in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. But in reality, the majority leader—with the participation of the White House—has a virtual free hand in fashioning a measure to wind up gaining the 60 votes needed to overcome a threatened Republican filibuster.

"The bottom line here is we need a final bill, a merged bill, that gets 60 votes," Baucus said. "Our goal is to pass health care reform not just talk about it."

Reid's most politically sensitive decision revolves around proposals for the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry. The Senate bill approved in committee during the day omits the provision, while the one passed earlier includes it and many House Democrats support it as well.

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Edukasion Pupbliku gi "Open Government Act of 2007"

Kuestion: Kåo un apreba i suena na initiative entitled i "Open Government Act of 2007" para u amenda i 1 CMC §9913 ya u listo gi sigiente: "§9913. Råmas Lehislatura: Applicability. I Lehislaturan Commonwealth, såsaonao todu i lehisladot siha yan i Lehislative Bureau, debi na suheto para i 1 CMC §9901, et seq. I respective na areklamento yan manera siha gi Senate, i House of Representative siha, yan i Lehislative Bureau debi na u matattiyi este na kapitulu." Hunggan pat Åhe'

Hångai ni Mapropone: "I taotåo i Commonwealth ha sodda' yan deklåra na ti ma'entrega i iyon-ñiha sovereignty para i ahente siha ni sumetbe siha. I taotåo, ni dumiligågadu i åturdåt, ti siña ha nå'i i setbision pupbliku siha direcho para u disidi håfa måolek para i taotåo siha para u matungo' yan håfa ti måolek para siha para u matungo'. I taotåo siha ma'insiste na u fanma'enfotma kosa ki siña u madesponi kontra i instrument siha ni mafa'tinas. I intension este na Initiative Petition na i Lehislaturan i Commonwealth, såsåonao todu i Lehisladot Commonwealth siha yan Lagislative Bureau, debi na suheto para i Lain Pupbliku 8-41, i Åkton Open Government, 1 CMC §§9901, et seq.

Sumårian Heneråt: Yanggen este na initiative ma'apreba, i Åkton i Open Government ha obra gi Lain Pupbliku 8-41 para u aplika guatu gi lehislatura. I Åkton i Open Government ha na'siguru na i pupbliku heneråt inemfofotma gi manera siha na i manma'ilihi na ofisiåles siha ni mana'fanhålom gi lehislatura. Todu i huntan Legislative siha manma'anunsia kontiempo, ya ti machuchule' uttimo na aksion solo i pupbliku gumuaha chansåña para u nå'i opiñon gi minidi.

(1) I lehislatura debi na u nå'i sitienta i dos(72) ora siha (3 diha siha) na notisian ayendå-ña i pupblikiu heneråt. Este na notisia para u mapupblika gi media ni anai siña masedi i pupbliku heneråt para u fa'tinas opiñon pat u ma'atende i hunta siha gi anai gaige i manimpottånte na manera siha para siha ni para u madiskuti.
(2) Gi durånten i huntan i legislative siha todu "petsonåt siha manmapetmiti para u ma'atende maseha håfa na hunta ni ginobiebietna i tatåotåo i ahentan i pupbliku.
(3) I lehislatura debi na u na'siña todu indibiyuåt siha opottunidåt para u mana'hålom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha , gi tinige' maseha håfa gi attikulon i ayenda.
(4) Tåya' otdinånsia, areklamento, resulasion, lai, regulasion, etc. siña ma'adåpta solo gi halom i hunta ni mababa para i pupbliku.
(5) I uttimo na aksion anai siña machule' gi otdinånsia, areklamento, resulasion, lai, regulasion, etc. gi hunta ni ma'arekla ginen i pat areklamento pat ginen i notisia ni manmanån'i gi sigun i åkton i Open Government (maseha 72 ora siha na notisia pat yanggen gof nisisårio i ensigidas na hunta nai siña ma'ågang).
(6) Gi tiempon emergency, i hunta siña ma'ågang ti nisisårio na un nå'i sitienta ora siha na notisia. Låo, i lehislatura debi na "(a) u sångan gi tinige' i rason pot håfa sinedda'ña na i emergency gagaige ha' siha; (b) u mabota guini two'thirds gi todu i miembro siha ni i kuetpo u entitled na gagaige ha' i emergency siha; (c) po'lo i emergency na ayenda yan i sinedda' siha gi ofisiåt na rekot siha gi governing bodies.
(7) Pot uttimo, este na initiative entitles i pupbliku para u rikonosi gi halom i dies(10) diha siha gi ginagåo todu i rekot pupbliku siha, solo ma'espesifika na sahnge gi halom i Seksiona 19 gi lai.

Report: Unsafe abortions kill 70,000 annually

NEW YORK (AP)—Increased contraceptive use has led to fewer abortions worldwide, but deaths from unsafe abortion remain a severe problem, killing 70,000 women a year, a research institute reported Tuesday in a major global survey.

More than half the deaths, about 38,000, are in sub-Saharan Africa, which was singled out as the region with by far the lowest rates of contraceptive use and the highest rates of unintended pregnancies.

The report, three years in the making, was compiled by the New York-based Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights and is a leading source of data on abortion-related trends. Researchers examined data from individual countries and multinational organizations.

The institute's president, Sharon Camp, said she was heartened by the overall trends since Guttmacher conducted a similar survey in 1999, yet expressed concern about the gap revealed in the new report.

"In almost all developed countries, abortion is safe and legal," she said. "But in much of the developing world, abortion remains highly restricted, and unsafe abortion is common and continues to damage women's health and threaten their survival."

The report calls for further easing of developing nations' abortion laws, a move criticized by Deirdre McQuade, a policy director with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

ACROSS THE NATION

Calif. storm causes power outages, mudslide fears

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A big Pacific storm swept into California on Tuesday with damaging winds and downpours that put a community near Santa Cruz under an evacuation advisory because of potential mudslides, while homeowners near the wildfires that burned parts of Southern California braced for a dangerous overnight drenching. Homeowners filled sandbags and crews erected concrete barriers to channel potential flows from denuded slopes. Some residents placed boulders in key areas around their homes, hoping to blunt the destructive power of flash floods. The main fear was that the rains would cause mud and debris to rush down hillsides made bare from the summer fire, state fire spokeswoman Colleen Baxter said.

Guru says he's being tested by AZ retreat deaths

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man in charge of a spiritual retreat last week in Arizona that left two people dead after they were overcome in a sweat lodge said Tuesday night he is "being tested" by the tragedy and has hired his own investigators to try to determine what went wrong. The comments from self-help expert and author James Arthur Ray came during a seminar he held at a hotel in Marina del Rey, near Los Angeles. Ray broke down in tears as he addressed the deaths. "This is the most difficult time I've ever faced," Ray told the crowd of about 200. "I don't know how to deal with it really."

Delaware 1st grader has 45-day suspension lifted

BEAR, Del. (AP)—A Delaware first-grader who faced a lengthy punishment for taking his favorite camping utensil to school—a combination folding knife, fork and spoon—got a reprieve Tuesday night when the school board made a hasty change to its strict code of conduct. The seven-member Christina School Board voted unanimously to reduce the punishment for kindergartners and first-graders who take weapons to school or commit violent offenses to a suspension ranging from three to five days. Zachary Christie, 6, had faced 45 days in an alternative school for troublemakers after he took the utensil to school to eat lunch last month. Now, he could return Wednesday.

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Ammatafal Toulap reel "Open Government Act of 2007"

Ayegh: U aprebali mille popular initiative ye ital nge "Open Government Act of 2007" ebwe siweli 1 CMC § 9913 bwe ebwe kkaisul: "9913. Legislative Branch: Applicability. Commonwealth Legislature, me bwal alongeer legislators me legislative Bureau, ebwe subject ngáli 1 CMC § 9901, et seq. Allégh me aweewe kka Senate, House of presentative me Legislative Bureau rebwe attabweey Chapter yeel? Awer me ngáre Saabw.

Pomwol Bwúlúl: " Aramasal Commonwealth re schungi me dikklarai bwe rese yield-li yaar sovereignty ngáliir agencies kka re serve-liir. Aramas, llól bwángiir reel delegating, nge ese ngálleer public servants direchoor bwe rebwe disidili meeta e ghatch ngáliir aramas rebwe ghuleey me meeta ese ghatch rebwe ghuleey. Aramas re amamaaw rebwe aghuleey ngáliir bwelle igha iir rebwe lemaliir instrument kka re ayoora. Pomwol Initiative Petition yeel bwe Commonwealth Legislators me Legislative Bureau rebwe attabweey Public Law 8-41, Open Government Act, 1 CMC § 9901, et seq.

Aweewe: Ngáre Initiative yeel e apreba, iwe Open Government ye e outline llól Public Law 8-41 ebwe apply ngáliir legislature. Open Government Act e asiguruw bwe aramas toulap re aghuleey ngáliir alongal issues kka layúr elected officials re bwughilong llól legislature. Alongal meetingil legislative e arongowow mmwal igha rebwe ayoora, nge re ssóbw bwungúwuló ngáre toulap rese amweri mwo.

(1) Legislature ebwe ayoora fisigh me ruwoow ora (élérál) arongol yaar agenda ngáliir toulap. Arong kkaal ebwe akkatéwow llól media bwelle toulap rebwe mmwelil isisilong yaar mángemáng me ngáre tabweey yélágh kkaal bweigha issues kka rebwe aweewe wóól e pirisisu ngáliir rebwe aweweey.

(2) Alongal yélághil legislative nge "alongeer armas rebwe mweiting ngáliir rebwe tabweey alongal governing body mellól public agency."

(3) Legislature alongeer aramas rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng, llól alongal agenda.

(4) Esóór ordinances, allégh, resolution, etc rebwe adoptaay solo e suusu ngáliir toulap meeting yeel.

(5) Final action emmwel rebwe féérú ngáre schagh reel ordinance, allégh, resolution, etc, llól yéélágh ye aa bwung sángi allégh me ngáre aa mwir sángi Open Government Act (sángi ngáre 72 oral arong me ngáre emergency, emergency meeting emmwel ebwe faffay.

(6) Llól ótol emergency, emmwel ebwe faffay meeting inaamwo igha ese yoor orong llól fisiigh ora. Nge legislature ebwe "(a) ebwe ischitiw meeta bwulul ebwe yoor emergency reel; (b) membro rebwe bwotaali nge ebwe yoor two-thirds re bwunguw mellól board bwe eyoor emergency; (c) ebwe file emergencey agenda me schungi yeer bwe eyoor emergencey llól official record."

(7) Arorosol, intiative yeel nge e mweiti ngáliir toulap bwe rebwe amweri llól seigh rál sángi akkúlé alongal record kka yaal toulap ngáre schagh e mwir sángi Section 19 mellól allégh iwe e exempted.

World

AP sources: Afghan commander frets over corruption

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rampant government corruption may derail the fight against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan even if as many as 80,000 additional U.S. troops are sent to the war, the top military commander there has concluded, according to U.S. officials briefed on his recommendations.

The conclusion by Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal is part of a still-secret document that requests more troops even as he warns that they ultimately may not prevent terrorists from turning Afghanistan back into a haven.

McChrystal has outlined three options for additional troops—from as many as 80,000 to as few as 10,000 to 15,000, according to officials at the Pentagon and White House.

Each option carries a high risk of failing, according to U.S. officials, although they said McChrystal concluded that fewer troops will bring the highest risks.

McChrystal favors a compromise of 40,000 additional troops, said the officials, who described his request to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

President Barack Obama said Tuesday that he will decide on a war strategy and the troops needed to carry it out in "the coming weeks." Though he said weighing military and security concerns are key parts of his decision, "another element is making sure we're doing a good job in building capacity on the civilian side."

"Our principal goal remains: Root out al-Qaida and its extremist allies that can launch attacks against the United States or its allies," the president said.

There are 67,000 American troops in Afghanistan, and 1,000 more are headed there by the end of December.

Allegations of widespread fraud in Afghanistan's Aug. 20 presidential election threaten to scuttle the international strategy to combat the burgeoning Taliban insurgency. The elections were marred by claims of ballot box stuffing and voter coercion.

On Tuesday, one U.S. military official said discussions within the Obama administration are ongoing about whether it is even possible to "surge" enough troops to overcome the corruption and how crucial a legitimate government in Afghanistan is to the overall war strategy. The official requested anonymity to describe the confidential discussions.

A decision on whether to hold a runoff election between Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and chief challenger Abdullah Abdullah, a former Afghan foreign minister, could come as early as Saturday.

Corruption can lead to citizens rejecting their government and, in some cases, aligning with rebel or insurgent groups. That in turn creates chaos that can lead to security problems and long-term instability.

Aquino tops survey for RP president

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Opposition Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III topped an independent survey Wednesday as the most popular choice to succeed Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in next year's election.

Sixty percent of respondents named the 49-year-old son of late democracy icon Corazon Aquino among "the three best successors" to Arroyo, the respected pollster Social Weather Stations said.

The next top choice with 37 percent was Sen. Manny Villar, the wealthiest legislator who made his fortune as a real estate developer. He was followed by ousted President Joseph Estrada, who got 18 percent.

The 1,800 adult respondents were asked to list the names of leaders they consider Arroyo's best successors. The survey has a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

Unlike other aspirants who had declared their presidential ambition months earlier, Aquino announced he will run only in early September.

He said he wants to continue the legacy of his mother, who led the 1986 "People Power" revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos and shot her to power. She served as president from 1986 to 1992.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russian FM: Iran sanctions threats won't work

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia publicly pushed back Tuesday against U.S. efforts to threaten tough new sanctions if Iran fails to prove its nuclear program is peaceful, dealing an apparent setback to President Barack Obama's hopes for Moscow's backing for fresh penalties against Tehran. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow believed such threats were "counterproductive" and that only negotiations should be pursued now. Just last month, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev had said that sanctions are rarely productive but "in some cases they are inevitable," a statement the U.S. hailed as a shift of opinion in Moscow. Lavrov, at a joint news conference Tuesday with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, said diplomacy "still has chances to succeed."

Hondurans agree on constitution; no deal on Zelaya

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' opposing factions agreed Tuesday on nearly every point of a pact to end the political crisis except the central issue: ousted President Manuel Zelaya's return to the presidency. Negotiators said Zelaya's camp has promised that if he returns to power, he will drop his efforts to change the Honduran constitution, an initiative that led to his June 28 ouster. Juan Barahona, a Zelaya supporter who has led street protests against the coup, walked out of the talks Tuesday in protest of the agreement on the constitution. He vowed to continue fighting for a new constitution on his own even if Zelaya is restored to office.

Rev. Moon to preside over mass wedding of 40,000

ASAN, South Korea (AP)—Nearly a half-century after the Rev. Sun Myung Moon performed his first mass wedding, the 89-year-old leader of the Unification Church prepared Wednesday to marry off tens of thousands of people in spectacles from the United States to South Korea. Brides in white carrying plastic bouquets and men in black suits and ties posed for photos after arriving at Sun Moon University in Asan, south of Seoul, for a ceremony that was to be broadcast live at similar events worldwide. Moon was set to marry off or renew wedding vows for 21,000 people in South Korea—both Koreans as well as Japanese, Americans and Europeans—as well as for an estimated 20,000 taking part in ceremonies from Sweden to Brazil and in nearly every U.S. state, church officials said.

ANGELO!

O'Connor Villagomez #4 DEMOCRAT

The Central Executive Committee of the NMI Democratic Party is inviting the public to participate in the grand opening of Democratic Headquarters in San Jose this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The new office will be open from 5pm to 7pm each day for a happy hour pocket meeting with candidates Angelo O'Connor Villagomez and Jesse Jones Torres. "The Democrats are making a comeback," said Torres, who is running for a House of Representatives seat in Precinct 5. "This is only the beginning. Change has come to the Marianas." The suggested donation is $5.00 and comes with two drinks.

What: Democratic Headquarter Grand Opening
When: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Where: Office on Beach Road in San Jose just south of Marianas Printing

MAYOR

www.AngeloVillagomez.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-002

Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director, commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tank # 106 has been out of operation for more than 2 years while the tank # 105 is still in use.

A mandatory site visit and pre-bid meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. local time at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10 – 002 – Emergency Repair: Fuel tank # 106 and 105, Power Plant 1, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Friday, October 30, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed**, upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, **until October 23, 2009**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried our as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. local time on Thursday, October 22, 2009,** to and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, power Generation Managing Engineer via email at venu@cucgov.net or Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR	/s/ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director

Environment

Obama urged to intensify push for climate bill

By JULIET EILPERIN and MICHAEL D. SHEAR
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—President Obama is coming under renewed pressure internationally and in the United States to throw his weight behind climate-change legislation, which advocates fear has suffered in light of the president's sweeping domestic agenda.

The Nobel committee's announcement Friday that Obama won the Peace Prize was a fresh reminder that much of the world expects him to lead the way toward a global climate pact. The committee cited his "more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges."

And in Washington, advocates are clamoring for more evidence that Obama will make good on his campaign promise to impose the first-ever national cap on greenhouse gases. Last week, the leading author of Senate climate legislation sought personal assurances from Obama during an Oval Office meeting, saying he wanted to "hear it from him directly" as he pushed ahead.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., told Obama he needs to direct his administration to be more aggressive in order to get Congress to take steps to limit pollution that contributes to global warming. But Kerry emerged from the meeting saying Obama had pledged closer coordination between the White House and its congressional allies on the issue.

"The bottom line is there's no way to negotiate a bill like this without the involvement of the administration that they've promised — and they've been producing," Kerry said in an interview. "If we're going to talk about oil and gas, we need to know what the administration will sign off on."

Obama aides say the fears are unfounded, part of what senior adviser David Axelrod called "tempests and ... kerfuffles" about the process of lawmaking that bear little relation to the actual progress they are making toward historic new laws aimed at preventing environmental degradation.

Asked to respond to concerns about the level of engagement by the White House, aides compiled the following statistics: Administration officials have met on the topic with more than half of the senators, they said. There have been calls with 100 mayors in 17 states and more than 50 energy-related events in 24 states. Officials have reached out to "hundreds" of energy stakeholders and local lawmakers, aides said.

"I understand the advocates on the issue would like us to have acted by now," Axelrod said. "The president and others feel this should have been dealt with years ago."

White House officials, including energy and climate czar Carol Browner, Axelrod and National Economic Council Director Lawrence Summers, have made presentations to a group of Democrats who meet regularly each week in the Capitol to discuss climate-change legislation. And last week Todd Stern, U.S. special envoy for climate change, met with several key senators to discuss the bill, identifying how specific provisions would affect the prospects for a global pact.

A group of centrist Democrats from manufacturing states met Thursday with Browner and one of them, Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said the administration had "been helpful" but was still working on how to protect energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries. "The bill's not there yet," he said.

But while the White House has touted the need for energy and climate legislation in several events — including one on Wednesday with business leaders and another with veterans last month — it hasn't delved deeply into the detailed work of fashioning legislation.

Several veteran energy and environmental experts said the approach differs sharply from how Senate Democrats and a Republican White House handled the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, a major legislative overhaul in which the White House and Environmental Protection Agency officials provided their own legislative blueprint and negotiated for weeks with a bipartisan group of senators in the office of then-Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine.

"I don't see how this legislation moves forward without that kind of engagement from the president," said Jonathan Lash, president of the World Resources Institute. "As of now, we don't see personal leadership from the president in helping the Senate find a bill that can get 60 votes. I hope we will."

Kerry and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., have been negotiating for months with colleagues on what it would take for them to support climate legislation, but it remains far shy of the 60 votes it needs for passage.

Their efforts to expand the base of support for climate legislation showed some progress Sunday, when Kerry and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., authored a New York Times op-ed outlining possible grounds for a bipartisan deal on the issue. Graham has yet to co-sponsor the Senate bill, however.

Meaningful cuts in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide are closely tied to whether Congress adopts a binding carbon cap, which has received far less public attention than the health-care bill now dominating the Senate.

On Friday, Denmark's climate and energy minister, Connie Hedegaard, who will be chairing U.N.-sponsored climate talks in December in Copenhagen, said Obama needs to do more on climate.

"It is hard to imagine that he will be receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on December 10th and then come empty-handed to Copenhagen a week later," she said.

Clean energy splits France over plan for windmills near coastal shrine

By EDWARD CODY
THE WASHINGTON POST

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL, France—Over the centuries, this iconic shrine on the Normandy coast has seen more than its share of battles. The latest skirmish involves not knights in shining armor, but opposing camps of environmentalists, jousting over the wisdom of installing windmill farms on nearby hillsides to turn sea breezes into clean energy.

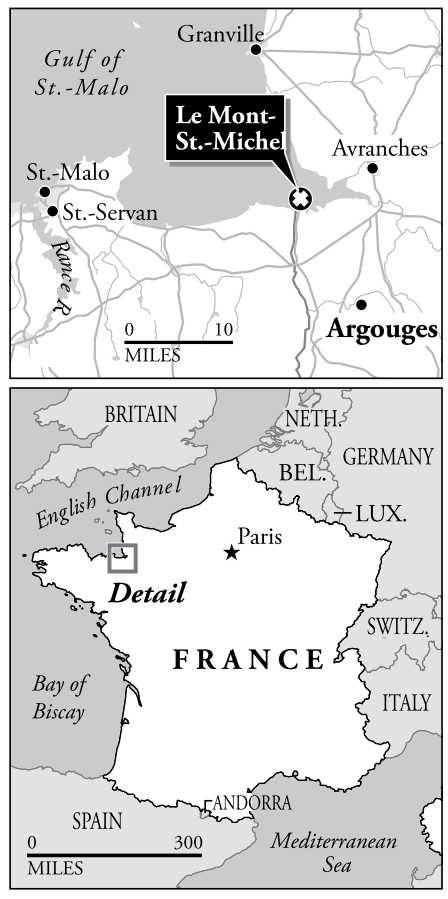
Although played out in a medieval setting, it is a conflict of the times—and in many ways a struggle between two good causes. On one side are those who want to reduce carbon emissions by drawing electricity out of wind. On the other stand equally dedicated ecologists who say the sight of 21st-century windmills churning above the tidal flats around Mont-Saint-Michel would detract from one of the world's most striking and best-known monuments.

"Mont-Saint-Michel represents 13 centuries of history," said Corinne Gressier, a nurse who lives in the ridge-top village of Argouges, where some of the disputed windmills would rise. "Excuse me, but if we can't prevent this site from being ruined, I don't know what to tell you."

The project has the support of local officials and President Nicolas Sarkozy's government. For these advocates of the environment, it would be a worthy contribution to France's program to expand its 2,500 windmills producing 4,500 megawatts a year to 8,500 producing 25,000 megawatts by 2020.

A push to curb climate change by slashing carbon emissions has gained ground across Europe. In December, the European Union adopted stringent goals to limit greenhouse gases. Last week, it recommended that its 27 member countries invest an additional $70 billion in clean energy over the next decade, including tripling windmill construction to produce up to 20 percent of Europe's electricity.

But the potential political impact of environmental concerns has become particularly clear in France, where Green party candidates did surprisingly well in European elections in June. Since then, Sarkozy has intensified efforts to identify his center-right government with environmental themes, seeking to lure Green voters from their natural alliance with the opposition Socialists.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Clean energy splits France over a plan for windmills near a coastal shrine. Map locates.

The activists here have no quarrel with the quest for clean energy, but, they argue, putting windmills on the ridgeline above Mont-Saint-Michel is not the way to do it. Backed by allies around the country, they have mounted a campaign to prove that the windmills—even at 10 miles away—would desecrate the vista for the more than 3 million visitors who come every year to admire the rock-top monastery rising from tidewater more than 500 feet into the sky.

In some ways, the activists are tilting at windmills. Mont-Saint-Michel's mayor, Eric Vannier, has remained aloof from the struggle, more concerned about an engineering project to flush silt from the tidal flats. A letter to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which has listed Mont-Saint-Michel as a World Heritage Site, went unanswered. Sarkozy's ecology minister, Jean-Louis Borloo, has espoused windmills as essential to the effort to reduce carbon emissions.

Still, when about 600 people, Gressier among them, gathered below the monastery late last month to protest the plan, they gained national attention for their cause. More concretely, they pooled their money with national environmental groups and hired lawyers to sue the local government. A court ruling is expected in the spring.

"If we win, we will have saved Mont-Saint-Michel. They'll have to put everything back beyond 30 kilometers," about 18 1/2 miles, said Gressier, who runs a group named Windmills: Turbulences. "But if we lose, it's over."

In general, French law bans windmills closer than 1,500 feet from historical monuments. The case before the court in Nantes concerns plans to erect three 300-foot-high windmills on farmland in Argouges, on a green plateau a little more than 10 miles southeast of Mont-Saint-Michel.

At that distance, tourists at the monument would see only tiny blades peeking over the horizon, Andre Antolini, president of the industry's Renewal Energies Syndicate, told reporters last month. "Our adversaries are not serious," he added.

Mayor Louis Lemouland of Argouges agreed. In a communication to his village's 600 residents, he said the planned windmills will adhere to all government regulations, adding that the turning blades would "not have a significant visual impact on the monument" because they would "melt into the horizon."

But for Gressier and a national alliance of environmental groups, the three windmills at Argouges, if permitted, would be just the beginning. Several companies have drawn up plans for an arc of 80 towers in farming communities all along the ridgeline, they said, which would produce a horizon of whirring blades beyond the monument—tiny at that distance, perhaps, but visible nonetheless.

Farmers and their village councils, often one and the same, tend to embrace proposals to install windmills in their fields, the groups said, because farmers get stipends for use of the land and villages get tax revenue on income from electricity, which is sold to the national grid at favorable prices by the private companies that build the windmills.

"It's a flourishing business," said Jean-Louis Butre, president of the Durable Environment Federation in Paris.

Although the fight in Argouges revolves around Mont-Saint-Michel, Butre's group has organized nationwide against Sarkozy's effort to expand the use of windmills as a way to reduce carbon emissions. The mills deface the landscape everywhere, he said, and are not an economical way to reach Europe's clean-energy goals.

France already gets nearly 80 percent of its energy from nuclear reactors, Butre explained, and draws another 12 percent from hydraulic generators. That leaves about 8 percent produced by oil, coal, natural gas, solar panels or windmills. If the government wanted to fill that gap with windmills, Butre noted, it would have to install so many that they would be part of the scenery in up to a third of the country.

Butre challenged Sarkozy's policy last year in a book titled "Fraud: Why windmills are a danger for France." Former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, a champion of nuclear power, provided a preface in which he called windmills a false solution.

"It is a question of denouncing an unacceptable waste of public funds, a deceptive public discourse, an often questionable business," Giscard said.

He added: "It is also a question of saving the landscapes of France, our countryside and soon, our seashore, which is also threatened."

Life & Style

Nobel jury speaks out in defense of Obama prize

OSLO (AP)—One judge noted with surprise that President Barack Obama "didn't look particularly happy" at being named the Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Another marveled at how critics could be so patronizing.

In a rare public defense of a process normally shrouded in secrecy, four of the Nobel jury's five judges spoke out Tuesday about a selection they said was both merited and unanimous.

To those who say a Nobel is too much too soon in Obama's young presidency, "We simply disagree ... He got the prize for what he has done," committee chairman Thorbjorn Jagland told The Associated Press by telephone from Strasbourg, France, where he was attending meetings of the Council of Europe.

Jagland singled out Obama's efforts to heal the divide between the West and the Muslim world and scale down a Bush-era proposal for an anti-missile shield in Europe.

"All these things have contributed to—I wouldn't say a safer world—but a world with less tension," he said.

For nine-year Nobel committee veteran Inger-Marie Ytterhorn, Obama's demeanor spoke volumes when he first acknowledged the award during a news conference Friday on the lawn of the White House Rose Garden.

"I looked at his face when he was on TV and confirmed that he would receive the prize and would come to Norway, and he didn't look particularly happy," she told the AP by telephone.

"Obama has a lot of problems internally in the United States and they seem to be increasing. Unemployment, health care reform: They are a problem for him," she said.

She acknowledged there was a risk the prize might backfire on Obama by raising expectations even higher and giving ammunition to his critics. "It might hamper him," Ytterhorn said, because it could distract from domestic issues.

Still, she added: "Whenever we award the peace prize, there is normally a big debate about it" so the Obama controversy was not unexpected.

It was unusual, however, for the Nobel jury to speak out so candidly about their selection.

Even the most seasoned Nobel watchers were surprised by Obama's Nobel—they hadn't expected the U.S. president, who took office barely two weeks before the Feb. 1 nomination deadline, to be seriously considered until at least next year.

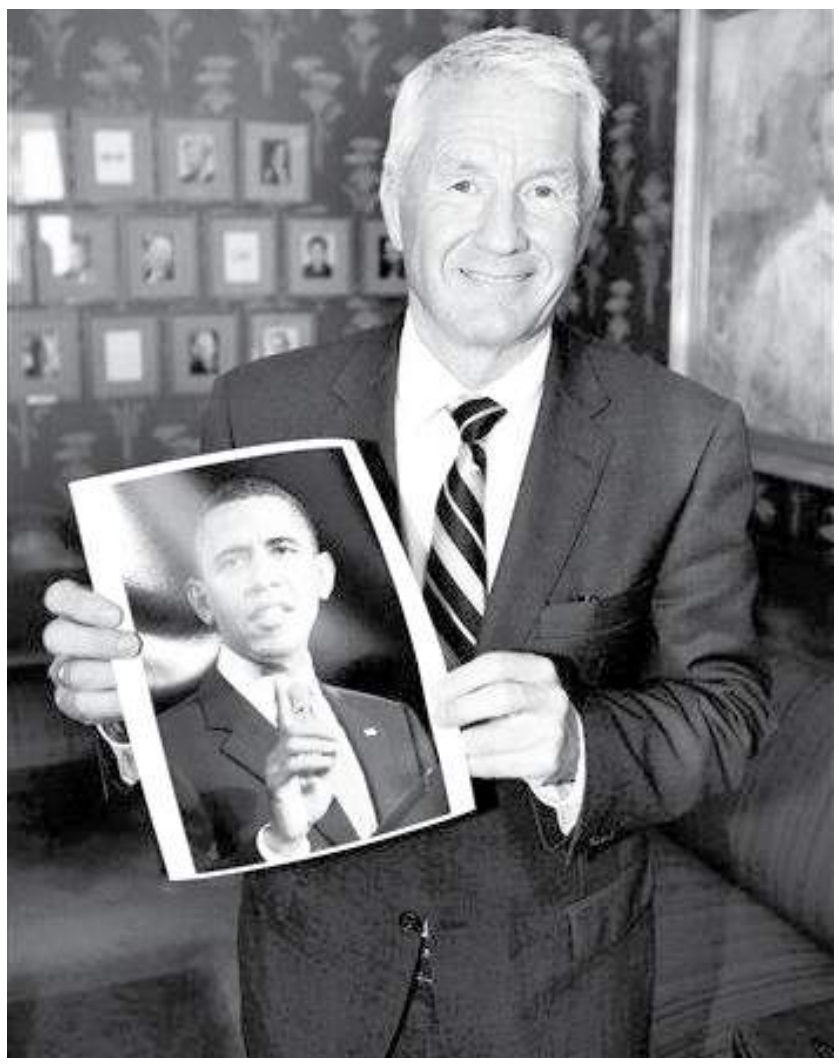
Jagland said that was never an issue for the Nobel committee, which followed the guidelines set forth by Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite who established the prize in his 1895 will.

"Alfred Nobel wrote that the prize should go to the person who has contributed most to the development of peace in the previous year," Jagland said.

"Who has done more for that than Barack Obama?"

Aagot Valle, a left-wing Norwegian politician who joined the Nobel panel this year, also dismissed suggestions that Obama was undeserving of the honor.

"Don't you think that comments like that patronize Obama? Where do these people come from?" Valle said from the coastal city of Bergen. "Well, of course, all arguments have to be considered seriously. I'm not afraid of a debate on the Peace Prize decision. That's fine."



AP

In this Friday, Oct. 9, 2009 file photo, Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Thorbjoern Jagland, holds a picture of President Barack Obama, in Oslo, Norway, after the announcement of Obama as winner of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize.

World leaders have reacted positively to Obama's Nobel in most cases, the committee said, with much of the criticism coming from the media and Obama's political rivals.

"I take note of it. My response is only the judgment of the committee, which was unanimous," Jagland said.

In announcing the award Friday, the committee, whose members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament, applauded the change in global mood brought by Obama's calls for peace and cooperation. They also praised his pledges to reduce the world stock of nuclear arms, ease U.S. conflicts with Muslim nations and strengthen the U.S. role in combating climate change.

The White House declined comment on the Nobel judge's latest statements.

However, Obama expressed surprise and humility at Friday's news conference, saying the prize should be considered not a "recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations."

Nobel Peace Prize selections have often been surrounded by fierce debate. Controversial awards include the 1994 prize shared by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin for Mideast peace efforts, as well as the joint prize to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho for a 1973 cease-fire agreement. The Vietnam War continued for two more years.

So the Nobel jury "expected that there would be a discussion" about Obama's award, said Kaci Kullman Five, a former Conservative Party parliamentarian and longtime Nobel committee member.

Valle said the criticism shouldn't overshadow important issues raised by Obama's Nobel.

"Of course I expected disagreement and debate on ... giving him the prize," she said. "But what I want now is that we seriously raise a discussion regarding nuclear disarmament."

Testimony depicts final days of Anna Nicole Smith

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith was ill, confused and isolated in a hotel room with a cornucopia of prescription drugs in the days before her death, an investigator testified Tuesday in a criminal case stemming from the celebrity model's overdose death.

California Department of Justice investigator Danny Santiago testified that witnesses said Smith was unable to walk unassisted into the Florida hotel, and she was so weak she could not sit up to drink liquids.

The testimony was presented in a preliminary hearing involving charges that Smith's former lawyer-boyfriend Howard K. Stern and two California doctors conspired to illegally provide Smith with controlled substances before her drug-overdose death at age 39.

Superior Court Judge Robert J. Perry, who will decide if there is enough evidence to send the case to trial, noted the defendants have not been accused of killing Smith and questioned the relevance when prosecutor Renee Rose asked Santiago about Smith's cause of death.

"There is not a murder charge," Perry said. "The cause of death is not an issue."

Stern, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristina Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty. Their attorneys have said they are undecided or unlikely to call defense witnesses during the preliminary hearing.

Santiago's testimony was mostly a summary of what Florida law enforcement investigators had learned after Smith's fatal collapse in the hotel room on Feb. 8, 2007. He also identified prescription drugs found in the hotel room as the prosecutor showed pictures of bottles and hundreds of pills.

Smith

Some of the prescriptions were in Stern's name, although some used an alternate spelling, Stearn, and some had been prescribed by Eroshevich, Santiago said.

Smith's autopsy concluded she died of "acute combined drug intoxication," and the drugs involved were chloral hydrate combined with Benadryl, clonazepam, diazepam and lorazepam. Clonazepam and Soma, both muscle relaxants, and the sedative diazepam were among medications found in the suite.

Santiago recounted a detective's description of Smith's arrival at the hotel on Feb. 5.

"He said she was being supported by Mr. Stern," Santiago said. "He was holding her as they walked through the lobby. He said she wasn't her usual vivacious self. She seemed down and was possibly ill."

He also testified that Stern had told an investigator he had been giving Smith the children's electrolyte formula Pedialyte in a baby bottle and that she was so confused she asked where her baby was.

Stern told Smith the baby, Dannielynn, had remained in the Bahamas during their trip to Florida to buy a boat.

Stern also told investigators that Smith had complained of flu-like symptoms and was being treated with Tamiflu by Eroshevich, who had the suite next door, Santiago said.

At one point, Stern had to help Smith to the bathroom because she couldn't get there, the witness said.

Eroshevich at one point asked a hotel employee, Lisa Arredondo, to call a doctor because she could not write prescriptions in Florida, but Stern called to cancel the request because they did not want any leaks about Smith's condition, Santiago said. Arredondo was assigned as Smith's personal assistant but never saw her.

Santiago said registered nurse Tasma Brighthaupt, the wife of Smith's bodyguard, was seated at her bedside at one point but did not notice Smith's lips were blue and her body was discoloring until someone else arrived and pointed it out. He said Brighthaupt thought Smith was sleeping.

By the time the hotel sent someone to check on Smith, "she was laying on the ground and Maurice Brighthaupt was giving her CPR," Santiago said. Stern had left Smith that day to look at a boat, Santiago said.

During some of the testimony, Stern sat forward in his courtroom chair with his head in his hands.

Stern's attorney, Steve Sadow, sought to show that Smith was strong-willed and would have been in charge of her own medical treatment.

Under cross-examination by Sadow, Santiago recounted a conversation he had with Arredondo about her impressions of Smith.

Reading from Santiago's report, Sadow quoted Arredondo as saying, "She was always the boss. She was in control of everything and everyone, everyone that traveled with her."

Asked if that included Stern, Santiago said he believed it did.

Santiago acknowledged that Arredondo was also asked if Smith's "ditzyness" was an act and that Arredondo said yes. Santiago also acknowledged none of the drugs found in the hotel were opiates.

Sadow also sought to show that Smith suffered from seizures and that an appearance on the 2004 American Music Awards in which she appeared to be drunk resulted from medication to control an episode. Santiago said he was told that by Stern.

The prosecutor then was allowed to play the tape of Smith's slurring introduction of Kanye West, whom she called a "freakin' genius," to show her demeanor while taking diazepam.

"Video is video," Sadow said later outside court.

"We're not running from it. It's what she was on that day. It just depends on the context of why she was that day. We all have bad days.

"She had medical problems," he said. "If she's on medication for that, that would explain her activity."

Santiago also testified that Stern said Smith was in the process of reducing her use of methadone for back pain so she could stop taking it and no methadone was found in her system after her death.

Is Jay Leno living on the edge?

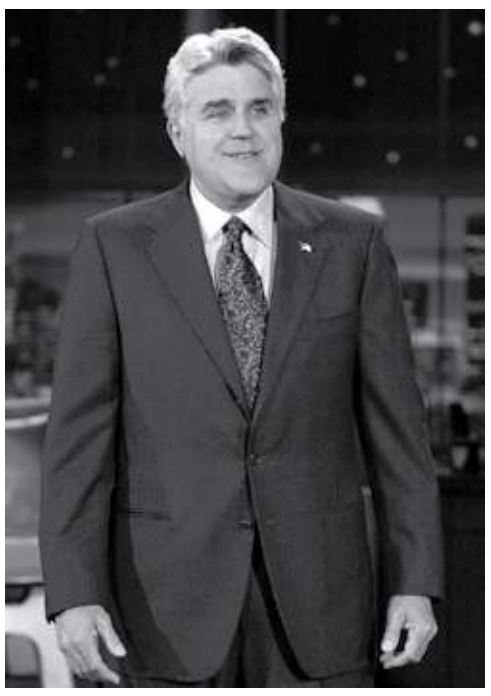
NEW YORK (AP)—If it was measured in traditional TV terms, "The Jay Leno Show" wouldn't be long for this world.

NBC's bold experiment faltered in the third week of television's new season, with none of its five editions scoring higher than No. 60 in the Nielsen Co.'s ranking of most popular programs. The shows ranged from a low of 4.5 million to a high of 6.2 million viewers.

All of CBS's 10 p.m. dramas last week had more than twice as many viewers as Leno. ABC's "Eastwick" was the only major network show beaten by Leno (Fox turns 10 p.m. over to local news).

NBC, however, says Leno's show must be viewed over the long haul. While the network says Leno's show is much cheaper to produce than scripted programming, it's unclear whether those savings can compensate for the low ratings. NBC concentrates on the ratings for 18-to-49-year-old viewers, and by that measure Leno is precariously close to the 1.5 rating the network says it has promised to advertisers. Last Monday, the show had a 1.5 rating, and on Friday it was 1.4, Nielsen said.

If NBC is looking for a glimmer of good news, "The Office" wedding of Jim and Pam gave the show its best ratings in a year. Among youthful viewers, it was the fourth most popular show of the week.



CBS' Tuesday schedule has emerged as the most popular night in television, led by "NCIS." That show's strength helped the two new shows that follow it—"NCIS: Los Angeles" and "The Good Wife"—into Nielsen's top 11 last week.

Meanwhile, Nielsen released statistics for the first week of the television season that measured how much shows were recorded on digital video recorders and played back within seven days, something of increasing importance within the industry as more people buy DVRs.

ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" was helped most by that measurement. The show had 17.06 million viewers for its season premiere, but add in all the people who watched within the next week, and that figure jumped to 20.03 million. ABC's freshman drama "FlashForward" was also among the top five in DVR playback, likely a factor in ABC's announcement that it has ordered a full season of episodes.

CBS won the third week of the new TV season with ease, averaging 12.2 million viewers (7.6 rating, 13 share), and also winning among the 18-to-49-year-old demographic. ABC averaged 8.4 million viewers (5.4, 9), NBC had 7.5 million (4.8, 8), Fox had 6.5 million (3.9, 6), the CW had 2.1 million (1.4, 2) and ION Television had 780,000 (0.5, 1).

Among the Spanish-language networks, Univision dominated with a prime-time average of 3.7 million viewers (1.9 rating, 3 share). Telemundo had 1.1 million (0.5, 1), TeleFutura had 900,000 (0.4, 1) and Azteca had 200,000 (0.1, 0).

NBC's "Nightly News" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 8.1 million viewers (5.4, 11). ABC's "World News" was second with 7.3 million (4.9, 10) and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.3 million viewers (3.7, 7).

A ratings point represents 1,149,000 households, or 1 percent of the nation's estimated 114.9 million TV homes. The share is the percentage of in-use televisions tuned to a given show.

For the week of Oct. 5-11, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "NCIS," CBS, 20.7 million; "Dancing With the Stars," ABC, 16.35 million; "NCIS: Los Angeles," CBS, 16.31 million; NFL Football: Indianapolis at Tennessee, NBC, 16.02 million; "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS, 14.9 million; "The Mentalist," CBS, 14.7 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 14.54 million; "Grey's Anatomy," ABC, 14.13 million; "Criminal Minds," CBS, 14.05 million; "House," Fox, 13.74 million.

'You Light Up My Life' writer sues ex-fiancee

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscar-winning songwriter behind "You Light Up My Life" says his former fiancee did just that to him—but hid the fact that she already was married.

Joseph Brooks filed a fraud suit Tuesday seeking at least $2 million in damages and the return of a $550,000 bank account, a $60,000 engagement ring and other expensive presents he says he gave to Joaly Gomez.

The lawsuit marks a new legal entanglement for Brooks, who pleaded not guilty in June to raping 11 women seeking film roles. A court date in the rape case has been set for Oct. 20.

According to the lawsuit, the 71-year-old Brooks met the then-21-year-old Gomez more than 18 months ago and grew close to her after suffering a stroke in April 2008. It's unclear how they met; his lawyer didn't return a telephone call, and no telephone number or attorney for Gomez could be found.

Told she was a student with no money, Brooks treated her to more than $1 million worth of designer clothes and jewelry, the lawsuit said. After professing his love and proposing in May, he followed up with the 1.38-carat diamond-and-platinum Tiffany's ring, about $50,000 worth of dental work, a $70,000 Mercedes-Benz and more than $1 million in deposits into her bank account, the suit said. Gomez later returned about half the money but kept $550,000, according to the lawsuit.

AP

In this June 23, 2009 file photo, Oscar winning songwriter and director Joseph Brooks is shown in New York.

The "complete shock" came Oct. 2, when he peered in her open handbag and discovered a 2007 marriage certificate listing her as another man's wife, the suit said. She had concealed the marriage "so that he would continue to shower her with gifts, attention, propose to her" and spend money on her, the suit said.

Brooks won the 1977 Oscar for best original song for the Debby Boone ballad "You Light Up My Life." He also wrote and directed the romantic comedy of the same name. It concerns a comedian who dreams of being an actress and has a one-night stand with a director.

Art experts find possible new da Vinci

TORONTO (AP)—Art experts believe they have identified a new Leonardo da Vinci—in part by examining a fingerprint on the canvas.

Peter Paul Biro, a Montreal-based forensic art expert, said Tuesday that a fingerprint on what was presumed to be a 19th-century German painting of a young woman has convinced art experts that it's actually a da Vinci.

Canadian-born art collector Peter Silverman bought "Profile of the Bella Principessa" at the Ganz gallery in New York on behalf of an anonymous Swiss collector in 2007 for about $19,000. New York art dealer Kate Ganz had owned it for about 11 years after buying it at auction for a similar price.

One London art dealer now says it could be worth more than $150 million.

If experts are correct, it will be the first major work by da Vinci to be identified in 100 years.

Biro said the print of an index or middle finger was found on the painting and that it matched a fingerprint from da Vinci's St Jerome in the Vatican. Biro examined multispectral images of the painting taken by the Luminere Technology laboratory in Paris. The lab used a special digital scanner to show successive layers of the work.

"Leonardo used his hands liberally and frequently as part of his painting technique. His fingerprints are found on many of his works," Biro said. "I was able to make use of multispectral images to make a little smudge a very readable fingerprint."

Technical, stylistic and material composition evidence also point to it being a da Vinci. Biro said there's strong consensus among art experts that it is a da Vinci painting.

"I would say it is priceless. There aren't that many Leonardo's in existence," Biro said. He said he had heard that one London dealer felt it could be worth 100 million British pounds (more than $150 million).

Silverman said his Swiss friend saw it first and told him it didn't look like a 19th century painting. When Silverman took a look at the painting at the Ganz gallery in 2007, he thought it might be a da Vinci, although that seemed farfetched. He hurriedly bought the painting for his Swiss friend and then started researching it.

"Of course you say, 'Come on, that's ridiculous. There's no such thing as a da Vinci floating around,'" Silverman said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I started looking in the areas around da Vinci and all the people who could have possibly done it and through elimination I came back to da Vinci."

Last year, Silverman bumped into Nicholas Turner, a former curator of drawings at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the British Museum. Turner said it was a da Vinci and other leading art experts have backed it up as well.

Silverman said thanks to the fingerprint image at the Luminere Technology laboratory it was confirmed.

"That was icing on the cake," he said.

Silverman describes the Swiss private collector as a very rich man who has promised to buy him "lunch and dinner and caviar for the rest of my life if it ever does get sold."

New Disney World coaster lets kids design the ride

MIAMI (AP)—Kids tired of experiencing the same old roller coasters have a new ride to tackle.

Walt Disney World opens an attraction Wednesday allowing them to design their own ride, then experience it on a giant robotic arm simulator.

"Sum of All Thrills" is the first ride in Epcot's Innoventions pavilion, where businesses sponsor educational attractions and hawk their brands.

Unlike IBM and Liberty Mutual, which wouldn't mind selling tomorrow's customers a policy or laptop, "Sum of All Thrills" sponsor Raytheon has nothing to offer the average consumer. But the high-tech defense and homeland security contractor does have jobs for those passionate about engineering, and would like to broaden the field.

"Our aim is to show kids how math and engineering make the things they care about really come to life and happen," said Kristin Hilf, vice president of Raytheon public affairs.

The ride begins, after a tutorial, in a design room. On a touchscreen computer, visitors pick a vehicle shape and determine how fast the ride should go based on ascent, inversions or corkscrews.

The information is saved on a magnetized card strip and fed into the simulator, where visitors experience the track they just designed. The cards are imprinted with numerical identifiers kids can use at home for a Raytheon educational Web site with more math and science problems.

"I did a lot of talking to kids before we got started. What I found is kids typically didn't like math, and didn't understand how it applied in their lives," said Eric Goodman, Disney Imagineer and "Sum of All Thrills" project manager. "They always felt there was one answer, and that's what you've got to do—find that one answer. What this does is show kids and adults the possibilities. If you have a math-controlling view, you get to control it."

Neither Disney nor Raytheon would disclose their financial agreement, but Disney has acknowledged in financial filings receiving substantial profit from ride sponsors. Last year, the agreements helped keep its parks and resorts segment from losing revenue in the third quarter despite declining attendance.

Christie Brinkley, ex-husband reach settlement

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Supermodel Christie Brinkley and her fourth husband settled their latest skirmish over a divorce agreement Tuesday and vowed to the judge that the pact would resolve all of their remaining issues.

The couple, who both have homes in the Hamptons on Long Island, have sparred over child custody and other issues since signing a divorce settlement in July 2008. That agreement followed several days of lurid testimony about Peter Cook's affair with a teenage store clerk and revelations that he spent thousands of dollars downloading pornography.

In the latest dispute, Cook complained that Brinkley had failed to deliver him their children's passports in time for a school trip to Egypt last year and later suggested that the supermodel be subjected to anger management counseling. Brinkley filed a counterclaim against Cook, contending that interviews he gave to Geraldo Rivera and Barbara Walters violated the terms of their settlement.

Attorneys for both sides said outside court that their respective claims had been dropped in the interest of post-marital harmony. They said a revised agreement calls for improved communications between the dueling exes on topics like the transfer of the children's passports and visitation issues.

Before signing off on the agreement, state Supreme Court Justice Mark D. Cohen obtained assurances from Cook and Brinkley that the latest pact "resolves each and every issue in this post-judgment matter."

Cook, 50, told reporters after the proceeding that he was pleased with the outcome.

"My goal all along has been to try and remove conflict so that we can go on about our lives," Cook said. "I respect my children's time with their mom, and all I ask is that she respect their time with me."

Brinkley, 55, who appeared sullen and wore dark sunglasses throughout the brief court proceeding, made references after the hearing to a Web site called "Divorcing a Narcissist."

"I think there's a lot of people out there that would benefit from Googling the site, `Divorcing a Narcissist,' and it will give you a lot of insight about what I've been going through for the past 3 1/2 years," she said.

She noted that during the divorce trial last year, a court-appointed forensic psychologist diagnosed Cook as "a narcissist who needed unending praise."

Cook has admitted having an affair with an 18-year-old woman, a liaison that blew apart his and Brinkley's decade-long marriage in 2006. Cook testified that he gave a $300,000 payoff to former mistress Diana Bianchi and had sex with her in his office and at two of Brinkley's homes in the Hamptons.

His attorneys contend Brinkley has not gotten over the anger from Cook's betrayal.

AP

In this July 2, 2008, file photo, Christie Brinkley smiles as she walks past reporters during a break in her divorce trial against Peter Cook in Central Islip, N.Y.

Soprano Gheorghiu files for divorce from Alagna

NEW YORK (AP)—Soprano Angela Gheorghiu and tenor Roberto Alagna are ending their marriage on a low note.

Gheorghiu (gee-or-GEE'-you) says she has started divorce proceedings against Alagna (a-LAN'-ya), whom she married on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in April 1996—with then New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani presiding.

"Angela Gheorghiu wishes to emphasize that she has been separated from Roberto Alagna for the last two years," said a statement posted Saturday on her Web site.

"Her attempts to save the marriage in this period failed. Having initiated divorce proceedings months ago, she awaits the finalization of their divorce as soon as possible. Ms. Gheorghiu understands that Mr. Alagna is bitter about this situation. As for her part, contrary to his declarations, she would like to live her life now with peace and tranquillity."

The couple lived in Switzerland. She did not say where the divorce proceedings were filed.

An e-mail message sent to Alagna's assistant was not immediately returned Tuesday.

In August, Gheorghiu withdrew from the first six performances of the Met's new production of Bizet's "Carmen," which opens New Year's Eve.

Lawyer says Jon Gosselin ordered to return $180K

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Jon Gosselin has been ordered to return $180,000 in marital funds by Oct. 26, according to a lawyer for his estranged wife. Kate Gosselin, meanwhile, must provide an accounting of past expenses by the same date, lawyer Mark Momjian said. And an arbitrator will review another $55,000 she says she spent on household and child-related expenses.

The divorcing stars of TLC's "Jon and Kate Plus 8" appeared briefly in family court Tuesday in the Philadelphia suburb of Norristown. The couple have eight young children—twins and sextuplets.

According to Momjian, Montgomery County Judge Arthur R. Tilson ordered Jon Gosselin to return the money or face contempt charges for violating an arbitrator's order.

"As difficult as this has been for me, I am pleased that the court has ruled fairly on behalf of myself and my children," Kate Gosselin said in the statement her lawyer released. "Now that this matter has been ruled on, I look forward to returning to private arbitration, as we have agreed to do, to resolve any remaining issues."

Jon Gosselin's lawyer, Mark Jay Heller, released a statement saying there was no proof that the $55,000 was used for family expenses.

"It may very well be determined that very substantial sums of money which Kate has failed to account for might have been misapplied and misused by Kate," Heller said.

AP

Jon Gosselin is seen after he exited the Montgomery County courthouse in Norristown, Pa., Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009.

"As of now, Jon Gosselin chooses to give Kate the benefit of doubt," Heller said. TLC is renaming the show "Kate Plus Eight." Jon Gosselin has sent the network a cease-and-desist letter, saying he believes the filming is harmful to the children.

Schwarzenegge to Shriver: Put down the cell phone

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is calling out his wife, Maria Shriver, for apparently violating a state law he signed - holding her cell phone while driving.

The celebrity Web site TMZ.com posted two photographs Tuesday showing Shriver holding a phone to her ear while she's behind the wheel. It says one was snapped Sunday and the other in July.

On his Twitter feed Tuesday, Schwarzenegger wrote to TMZ.com founder Harvey Levin: "Thanks for bringing her violations to my attention. There's going to be swift action."

Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLear says that by "swift action," the governor means he'll ask his wife not to hold the phone while driving. A law that took effect in 2008 requires California drivers to use a handsfree device.

The first lady's office said it would have no comment.

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The Informant
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Scott Bakula
Spy, Black Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
What was Mark Whitacre thinking? A rising star at agri-industry giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), Whitacre suddenly turns whistleblower. Even as he exposes his company's multi-national price-fixing conspiracy to the FBI, Whitacre envisions himself being hailed as a hero of the common man and handed a promotion. But before all that can happen, the FBI needs evidence, so Whitacre eagerly agrees to wear a wire and carry a hidden tape recorder in his briefcase, imagining himself as a kind of de facto secret agent.

I Can Do Bad All By Myself
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
When Madea, a pistol-packing grandma, catches sixteen-year-old Jennifer and her two younger brothers looting her home, she decides to take matters into her own hands and delivers the young delinquents to the only relative they have: their aunt April. A heavy-drinking nightclub singer who lives off of Raymond, her married boyfriend, April wants nothing to do with the kids. But her attitude begins to change when Sandino, a handsome Mexican immigrant looking for work, moves into April's basement room.

Fame
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG
Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Pandorum
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Michael Jackson earns American Music Awards nod

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson has a chance to win artist of the year posthumously at the American Music Awards.

The pop superstar, who died on June 25, was among a diverse group of artists nominated Tuesday for the top honor. Country star Taylor Swift, rapper Eminem, breakthrough rockers Kings of Leon and flamboyant pop star Lady Gaga were the other nominees.

Swift topped all artists with six nominations. She drew inadvertent attention at the MTV Video Music Awards last month when rapper Kanye West interrupted her acceptance speech to say Beyonce deserved the award instead.

Jackson followed Swift with five nominations and Eminem received four.

Winners are determined by an online vote of fans and will be announced at a Los Angeles ceremony televised by ABC on Nov. 22. The nominees were selected through a measurement combining sales and radio airplay.

Jackson was also nominated as favorite male artist along with Eminem and imprisoned rapper T.I. The late singer's "Number Ones" album was nominated for favorite album, along with Lady Gaga's "Fame" and Swift's "Fearless."

T.I. was nominated for favorite male rap star, and his "Paper Trail" disc was nominated for favorite rap album of the year. T.I. won two trophies last weekend at the BET Hip-Hop awards but could not attend the show because he is an Arkansas penitentiary on a federal weapons conviction.

AP

In this March 17, 2005 file photo, pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

Favorite female artist nominees were Lady Gaga, Swift and Beyonce.

Black Eyed Peas, nominated for best duo or group along with Kings of Leon and Nickelback, will perform on the show. Alicia Keys and Jennifer Lopez are also scheduled for performances. "American Idol" runner-up Adam Lambert will use the show to debut songs from his upcoming album.

Swift also has a chance to win best country album, best adult contemporary artist and best female country artist. Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood are also in the running for best female country artist.

Another star busts out of the 'Dancing' ballroom

AP

In this image provided by ABC, Anna Trebunskaya and Chuck Liddell perform during week four of Dancing with the Stars on Monday Oct. 12, 2009 in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ultimate Fighting champ Chuck Liddell has been knocked out—of "Dancing With the Stars."

The 39-year-old athlete was eliminated from the ABC dance competition Tuesday.

"It's hard to do," he said. "I made a shot at it."

Liddell and his professional partner, Anna Trebunskaya, earned praise from the judges for their entertaining country two-step Monday, but the pair collected just 17 points out of 30 for the performance.

"You not so much danced but raided the two-step," judge Bruno Tonioli said. "You bring carnage and mayhem to everything you do."

Head judge Len Goodman cited the "novelty value" of the mixed martial artist donning dance shoes, "but your quality of dancing isn't there."

Though the couple never topped a score of 19, Trebunskaya said Liddell made her proud each week.

"You are my bear and you are my hippo," she said. "I loved working with you."

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which contestant is eliminated each week. Shakira also appeared on Tuesday's show, performing her hit "Hips Don't Lie" and her new single, "Did It Again."

Ten celebrity contestants remain on the ABC dance-off. Each is set to perform two dances on Monday.

Underwood to host variety special on Fox

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fox network says Carrie Underwood will host a two-hour variety special tentatively titled, "Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special," to air Dec. 7.

The network says Underwood will perform new music from her upcoming album, previous hits and holiday classics. Musical guests will include Dolly Parton, Brad Paisley and David Cook.

Underwood won season four of "American Idol." The 26-year-old country singer is a four-time Grammy winner.

Her new album will be released Nov. 3.

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2009 file photo, Carrie Underwood arrives at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

'Godfather' singer Al Martino dies in Pa. at 82

SPRINGFIELD, Pa. (AP)—The singer who played the Frank Sinatra-type role of Johnny Fontane in "The Godfather" has died at his childhood home in suburban Philadelphia.

Publicist Sandy Friedman says Al Martino died Tuesday afternoon in Springfield, in Delaware County. He was 82.

Starting in 1952, Martino was known for hit songs including "Here in My Heart," "Spanish Eyes," "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "Volare."

Besides acting in the Marlon Brando classic "The Godfather," he sang the 1972 film's title score, "The Love Theme From The Godfather." His Fontane character is a singer and occasional actor.

Martino was born in South Philadelphia as Alfred Cini (SEE'-nee). He was a longtime resident of Beverly Hills, Calif.

His publicist didn't state the cause of his death.

Gifts for grandchildren can be both fun and practical

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Where's the Fun in Upstate New York" (July 26), whose husband, "Hugh," insisted they buy their grandson a $100 savings bond for his first birthday when she wanted to splurge on toys and clothes. I understand her frustration.

Couples should decide together what to do, not tell the other what will be done. That said, I agree with Hugh that $100 to $150 on gifts for a 1-year-old is excessive. The child's room will soon look like an overloaded toy store. I have seen this in our extended family. At Christmas it took 2 1/2 hours to open all the gifts. Egads! We've become a nation of excess, and kids expect it.

Years ago, I approached the parents of our godchildren with the offer of savings bonds on holidays, which they gratefully accepted. Two of the "children" are now in college, and we're pleased we lifted a bit of the burden of the cost they'll face. I know it's not a "fun" gift, especially for the little ones, so we always include a token present for "now." I hope that couple can reach a similar agreement and not let this drive a wedge.

SENSIBLE IN IOWA

DEAR SENSIBLE: The majority of those who wrote to comment on the letter from "Where's the Fun" were -- like you—as concerned about the state of the woman's marriage as the gift issue. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It's not like you to miss the warning sign of a controlling spouse. If Hugh is truly "wonderful in every way," then they should agree to disagree on this issue.

She should spend what she wants, within reason, on gifts of her choice for their grandson's birthday. If he feels strongly about the savings bond, which is also a wonderful gift, then they should get that, too. Because they are financially comfortable, and this is the only area of disagreement, surely Hugh can compromise.

I am alarmed that he has already decided what they'll be giving the child for every birthday. Grandparents traditionally engage in a mixture of indulgent and practical gift-giving. She was not looking to buy a wildly over-the-top gift. Hugh needs to relax and be a partner, not a dictator. And by the way, "fun" is not a dirty word. It's Baby's first birthday—lighten up!

MELISSA IN NEW YORK

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Some spouses suffer from "economic abuse" when one partner dominates financial decisions. I agree that a baby won't be impressed by pricey items, but this woman's gift choices are a form of self-expression. She should be allowed the joy of choosing presents and enjoying her grandbaby, especially since she contributes to household finances, but even if she didn't. Sometimes these gifts become treasured keepsakes passed through generations.

GIVING MY TWO CENTS' WORTH IN ABILENE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: While the adults in my life did give me toys and material things for my birthdays and holidays, I am 26 now and I have little recollection of what they were. What I know now is that because of the generous gifts of savings bonds from those loved ones, my fiance and I were able to make a down payment on a beautiful home without being "house poor." Those bonds allowed us to make a major step forward in our lives and be comfortable and secure.

It means the world that the adults who loved me and are no longer with me are part of this house and my new life, even though they could not be at my wedding.

SARAH IN HOUSTON

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I decided early on that we'd open a joint bank account and place half of each of our earnings into it. I opened another account in my name only for the other half. That way, if we disagreed on something—such as a gift—I could buy it myself. It has worked well.

I do agree that for the child's first birthday, Hugh's idea is best. The child will appreciate it when he's older.

DEBORAH IN MARIETTA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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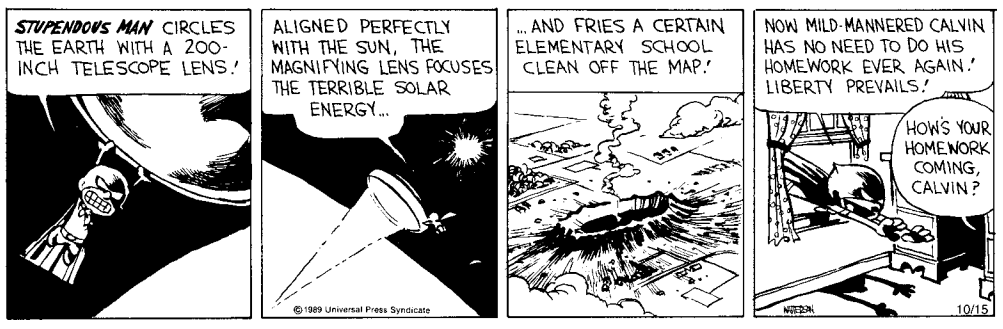
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson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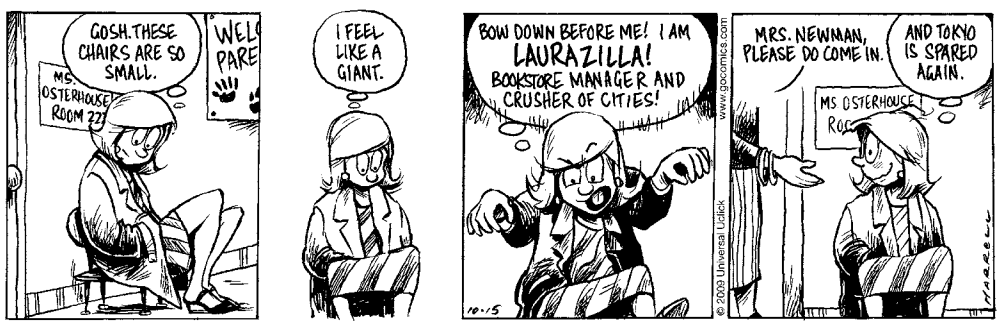
GOSH. THESE CHAIRS ARE SO SMALL.
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I FEEL LIKE A GIANT.
BOW DOWN BEFORE ME! I AM LAURAZILLA! BOOKSTORE MANAGER AND CRUSHER OF CITIES!
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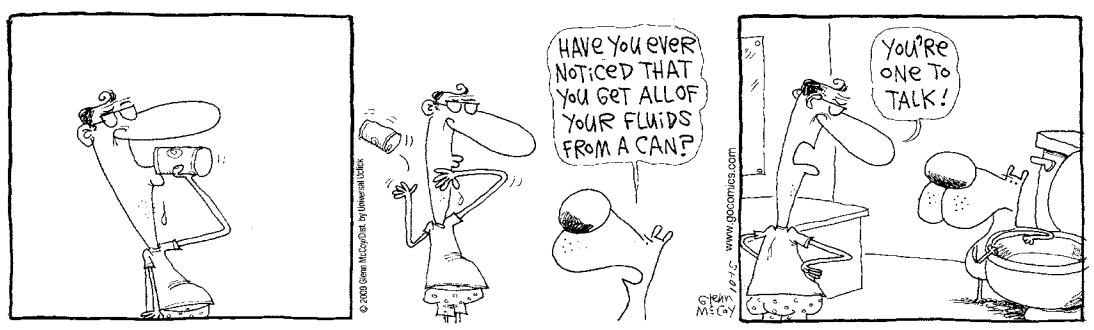
AND TOKYO IS SPARED AGAIN.
MS OSTERHOUSE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy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By Eugene Sheffer

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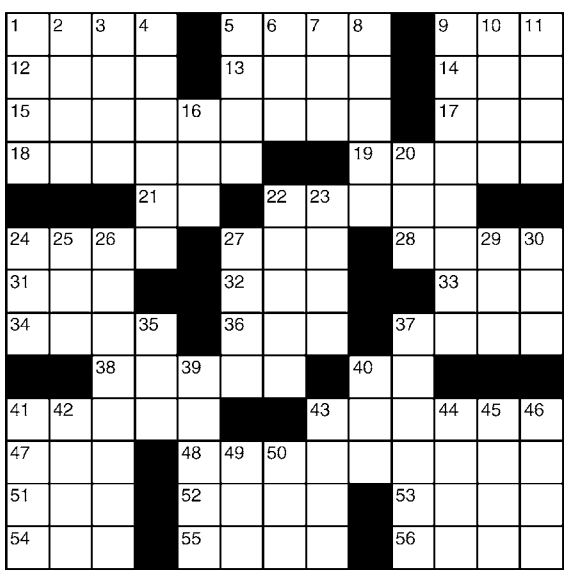
5 Miss Scarlet's game
9 Occupation
12 Incite
13 Padlock fastener
14 Kyoto cummerbund
15 Recurring marine events
17 Thither
18 Fall
19 Propelled a scull
21 "— what?"
22 Felix Salten story
24 Bad habit
27 "El —"
28 Old Testament kingdom
31 Commotion
32 Peculiar
33 Actress — Longoria Parker
34 — hall meeting
36 Month (Sp.)
37 Now, on a memo
38 Refuge
40 @
41 Nonsense
43 Will subject
47 Disencumber
48 Wasn't neutral
51 Lemieux milieu
52 Saskatchewan tribe
53 Complain
54 Surprise cries
55 Flock
56 Host

DOWN
1 Suspended
2 Sandwich treat
3 "Zounds!"
4 Oust from a throne
5 Goatee site
6 Young bloke
7 Work with
8 English racetrack site
9 Trips taken in "borrowed" cars
10 Reed instrument
11 Tie
16 Pair
20 Homer's dad
22 Obama's veep
23 Puts in
24 Cistern
25 Altar affirmative
26 Leather materials
27 Arrive
29 Eggs
30 Chart
35 Carpet feature
37 Theseus' land
39 Fodder plant
40 Pompous sort
41 Small combo
42 Opulent
43 Scratched (out)
44 Hebrew month
45 Clause in a contract
46 Get a glimpse of
49 Raw rock
50 "— the ramparts ..."

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	G	A	■	G	A	D	■	M	E	R	E
A	L	A	R	■	O	R	R	■	A	X	E	L
C	O	M	E	T	O	M	E	■	S	C	A	B
K	E	E	N	E	D	■	S	E	C	U	R	E
■	■	■	A	N	D	■	S	E	A	S	■	■
O	W	L	■	T	A	B	■	C	R	E	A	M
R	E	E	F	■	Y	O	U	■	A	M	M	O
B	E	A	R	D	■	A	P	P	■	E	O	N
■	■	N	E	A	T	■	G	E	M	■	■	■
P	H	O	E	B	E	■	R	A	I	S	I	N
L	A	N	D	■	S	E	A	R	C	H	M	E
E	L	M	O	■	L	A	D	■	R	I	P	S
D	E	E	M	■	A	R	E	■	O	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer 10-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paige Davis, 40; Vanessa Marcil, 41; Sarah Ferguson, 50; Emeril Lagasse, 50

Happy Birthday: There is no more time to sit on a fence, allowing others to make decisions for you. The chance to make your life better is now and, if that means making a move or changing your circumstances, start doing so. Strength and courage are required but, once you take action, everything will improve. Your numbers are 8, 15, 17, 23, 26, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can make an interesting career move that will encompass your creative skills in an unusual way. Check out the opportunities in an industry that offers more benefits, higher wages and future growth potential. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't think about the things you want to do, prepare to make them happen. Your actions now will determine whether you are a leader or a follower. A short road trip or telephone calls will be required to take care of a family matter. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Before you lash out at someone who isn't living up to your expectations, consider if you are pulling your own weight. Expect opposition and a reluctance to give in to ultimatums or demands—and consider how you can turn things around. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take part in the activities going on around you or you may miss out on a very special encounter with someone you care for. Conversations will lead to something you least expect. Share your thoughts and ideas about the future. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't sit back if someone offers you a good deal. Take advantage of any change that will benefit you professionally or financially. You'll regain your enthusiasm if you incorporate something new into something you are in the middle of doing. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will lack concentration and will find it hard to finish what you start. Consider what's really important and make whatever adjustments are required to work at top speed. Shirking your responsibilities will not help form important alliances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your intuitive thoughts will lead you in the right direction if it has to do with a financial matter. Don't let someone's lack of vision or originality frustrate you; take over and complete what needs to be done. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You are in the right place at the right time. A meeting with someone you respect will lead to a lasting relationship. If there are changes in social plans, don't be afraid to go it alone. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Ulterior motives are present and must be considered when you opt to take on something that you aren't positive you want to pursue. Protect yourself and your assets from anyone who is too aggressive. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): The more informed you are, the better equipped you will be to take on a task that is heading your way. Once you establish your position, others will come to you for help and advice and to offer assistance. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your ability to accept responsibility will alter your life and help you plan for a better future. Getting rid of debt and asking for reimbursement for the things you do will all contribute. Invest in yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Socialize and network but leave time for love and romance. Whether you are single or in a relationship, you can make your life better with someone who complements you. If you aren't happy with your current situation, now is a great time to make a change. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, impulsive and know how to get your way. You are drawn to the unusual. You are aggressive and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		8		7		
				3				
2			1		5			4
		6				3		
4	9			6			8	2
		1				4		
9			2		7			6
				1				
		3		9		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	8	5	2	4	1	7	6
5	7	4	1	6	9	2	3	8
2	1	6	8	7	3	4	5	9
6	2	1	7	9	5	8	4	3
7	8	5	3	4	6	9	1	2
4	3	9	2	1	8	7	6	5
1	4	3	6	8	2	5	9	7
9	6	2	4	5	7	3	8	1
8	5	7	9	3	1	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PONZI SCHEMES **Solution: 8 letters**

E	D	I	M	A	R	Y	P	C	D	N	E	T	X	E
L	D	L	E	I	Y	D	I	S	H	O	N	E	S	T
C	A	L	Y	H	S	I	F	A	L	S	E	U	N	N
Y	O	U	L	S	T	A	K	E	S	A	G	R	E	E
C	R	S	N	A	P	L	A	N	S	O	U	S	T	L
O	N	I	E	N	C	L	A	T	B	T	L	O	N	U
N	O	O	S	I	A	I	N	E	E	A	M	U	A	D
F	I	N	S	K	T	E	T	R	W	O	Ⓓ	T	P	U
I	S	A	N	O	M	I	E	A	R	L	Ⓔ	L	I	A
D	N	R	I	Y	L	V	R	P	M	R	Ⓐ	A	C	R
E	A	Y	A	E	O	D	O	U	M	E	Ⓛ	Y	I	F
N	P	P	G	N	H	O	M	A	C	S	H	U	T	A
C	X	D	R	T	L	P	M	O	N	E	Y	T	R	S
E	E	U	I	R	E	L	D	N	I	W	S	E	A	E
H	T	W	O	R	G	S	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	M

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Agree, Annual, Bogus, Confidence, Cycle, Deal, Dishonest, Expansion, Extend, False, Fishy, Fraudulent, Gains, Growth, Hedge, Illusionary, Lure, Mathematical, Money, Outlay, Participant, Payments, Plan, Pool, Promises, Promote, Pyramid, Return, Risk, Scam, Securities, Sold, Stakes, Swindler, Term, Turnover, Wealth, Withdrawals, Yield,

Yesterday's Answer: Wine

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $19.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total) each. U.S. funds only for the first volume. $1.50 o&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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One thing after another

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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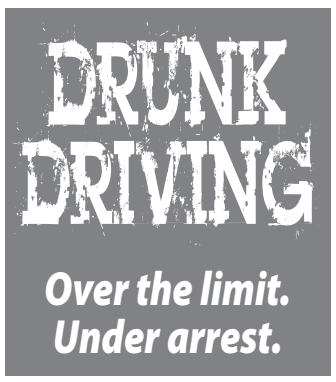

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

other thing

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Find today's solution in this section

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

POSITION OPEN FOR

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated, service oriented individual to support the NMCADSV Board of Directors and Executive Director to achieve its mission, goals and objectives.

Qualifications

1 year documented non-profit and/or charitable volunteer service
2 years Office Administration background
Excellent oral and written communication skills
Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
Strong bookkeeping and accounting background
Flexible schedule
Must attend Board meetings
Must be able to travel

Deadline and Submission Information

Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted no later than October 21, 2009 via email to mbtenorio@gmail.com
(Only submissions via email will be considered)

This project is supported by Grant # 2009-ES-S6-0042 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0596

Plaintiff,
-v-

JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR N. ORKERIIL,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 004 B 44, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,164 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 B 02 dated December 26, 1991, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-108, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 6, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of September, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
1ST Floor Morgen Building, San Jose
P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 235-4401/4402
Fax: (670) 235-4450

NOTICE OF AUCTION
Ref: Lot 011 G 71
Kagman, Saipan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot 011 G 71, located in the village of Kagman III on Agatelang Ave., on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 770 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 03, which was recorded on December 16, 1993, as Document No. 93-4411, at the Land Registry Office in Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Property Description. Located on the property is a three bedroom, one bathroom, fully concrete house. Amenities include an installed septic tank, an outside porch, and a one car garage. House condition is slightly deteriorated, and repairs to septic system, flooring, and finish work maybe necessary.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, 1st Floor Morgen Building, San Jose, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Condition of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres C/O Marianas Public Land Trust, 1st Floor Morgan Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-235-4401/4402; Fax: 670-235-4450.
3. Deposit; payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; **contact the Marianas Public Land Trust for scheduled viewing and inspection time**. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of October, 2009.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

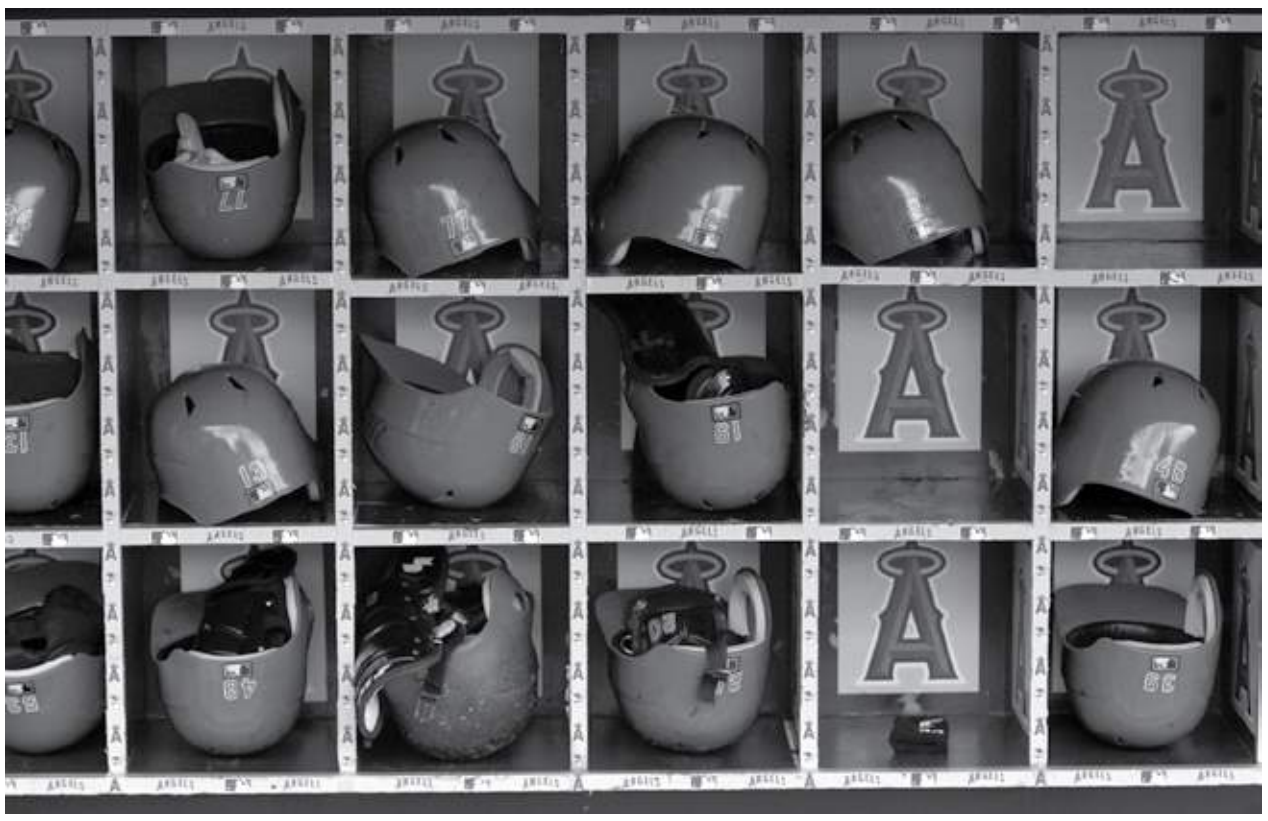
CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Angels, Dodgers step closer to Freeway Series



Los Angeles Angels helmets are shown during baseball practice in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ssshhhh, don't let it get out, but the prospect of a Freeway World Series is a tantalizing prospect to Torii Hunter, of all people.

With the Angels and Dodgers in their respective league championship series for the first time in the same season, Angelenos and their counterparts in Orange County are chatting up the idea.

"I hope we're one of those teams," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said Tuesday.

The teams separated by 31 miles of freeway both swept their division series, with the Angels dispatching longtime nemesis Boston and the Dodgers finishing off St. Louis.

Taking the onramp to a Freeway World Series would require the Angels to get by the Yankees, beginning Friday in New York.

"That's a dream world," Angels leadoff hitter Chone Figgins said about an all-LA matchup. "Hopefully, they'll win on their side, and we can get the first game in our series and go from there."

The Dodgers would need to beat Philadelphia, something they failed to do a year ago. They open Thursday at Dodger Stadium, where Vin Scully's soothing voice will broadcast the action and former manager Tom Lasorda will be sitting behind home plate.

"You kind of catch yourself rooting for the Dodgers, and I'm sure the Dodgers are rooting for us," Hunter said during a workout in Anaheim. "It'd be kind of awesome to have a Freeway Series."

The teams have a few things in common, starting with Los Angeles being the official name of the clubs, even if the Angels play in another county and survived a court battle to keep it.

They both have former catchers as managers. The Angels' Mike Scioscia played on the Dodgers' 1988 World Series title team, the last time the Dodgers have been in the championship. The Dodgers' Torre was an All-Star catcher back in his day, who last managed a World Series champion in 2000, with the Yankees.

Mickey Hatcher, the Angels' hitting coach, and Alfredo Griffin, their first base coach, both starred alongside Scioscia in '88.

Scioscia's dislike of looking ahead is well-known, so he wouldn't bite on the chance of facing his old team for baseball's biggest prize.

"Believe me, our plate is full," he said. "As long as you keep winning, it's a lot of fun. We're going to have to keep our play at a certain level to even make it a conversation."

Over at rainy Dodger Stadium on Tuesday, Torre was equally reluctant to engage in the talk.

"For me to come out here and try to dream about who I'd like to play, I've got to play Philadelphia," he said. "Whoever comes out from that other series is hopefully somebody we're going to play. I just don't look past that."

Last week, Torre said his family and friends on the East Coast are rooting for the Dodgers to face the Yankees in the World Series.

"When my so-called friends and relatives talk about that, I really dismissed them in a hurry," he said. "I just tell them we have a lot more work to do."

If the Angels and Dodgers do meet, they each boast potential Hall of Fame sluggers in Vladimir Guerrero and Manny Ramirez, who has his own stadium section dubbed "Mannywood." There's a rockpile in center field in Anaheim that Guerrero likes to homer into.

A Freeway World Series might be hardest of all on the parents of Jered and Jeff Weaver. Jered will start Game 2 of the ALCS for the Angels, while brother Jeff is a former Dodgers starter who now works out of the bullpen.

Longtime fans of both teams will recall they once shared a home field.

The Angels began as an expansion team in 1961, playing at the old Wrigley Field. The Dodgers moved from Brooklyn after the 1957 season and played in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

In 1962, both teams relocated to the current site of Dodger Stadium, only the Angels called it Chavez Ravine on the days they were playing. Interleague play was still decades away, so there was no confusion about the stadium's identity.

In 1966, the Angels moved down Interstate 5 to Anaheim Stadium (where football was once played and is now baseball-only Angel Stadium).

That's where a Freeway World Series would begin and end because the American League won the All-Star game in July.

"I'm pretty sure it's never been done before," said Hunter, who came to Anaheim from Minnesota. "But we can't get too far ahead of ourselves."

Ah, but in a town that manufactures movie fantasies, everyone can dream.

Yankees may go with 3-man rotation against Angels

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees may go with a three-man rotation against the Los Angeles Angels in the AL championship series.

CC Sabathia is scheduled to start Friday night's opener, with A.J. Burnett and Andy Pettitte and New York's other two primary starters. The shortened rotation would allow manager Joe Girardi to keep Joba Chamberlain and Chad Gaudin in the bullpen.

"In the 10-day forecast that I looked at, it looks like we have some rain in the forecast, so that can change things," Girardi said Tuesday during a conference call. "But we are definitely considering possibly going to a three-man rotation in this round, but we'll have to take a look at it and see how it goes."

New York swept Minnesota in the opening round, and used Chamberlain as a setup man in all three games. He pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings, allowing two hits, and combined with Phil Hughes and the rest of the bullpen to bolster the link between starters and closer Mariano Rivera.

"That was pretty good with us in the first round," Girardi said. "If you go to a three-man rotation, obviously he stays in the bullpen. But if you go to a four-man rotation, then we have to weigh the benefits of either of putting Joba in the bullpen or putting Chad in the bullpen."

Sabathia made his final three regular-season starts for Milwaukee on three days' rest in 2008, then started again on short rest in the playoffs against Philadelphia, lasted just 3 2-3 innings and lost.

New York limited him to 230 innings during the regular season—down from 253 the previous year. He will start the opener against the Angels on eight days' rest, another factor the Yankees think will enable him to be effective in Game 4.

"Not getting him to 250 innings during the regular season allows us to consider that," Girardi said. "We've told him, though, to concentrate on Game 1. That's the most important game, and we'll go from there."

Girardi hasn't decided whether to again have Jose Molina catch Burnett instead of Posada. To do that, Girardi said he probably would have to again carry Francisco Cervelli as a third catcher, allowing the team to take out Posada for a pinch runner late in a game.

Arenas, Wizards fined $25K apiece for his silence

WASHINGTON (AP)—The NBA is making Gilbert Arenas—and the Washington Wizards—pay for his silence.

Arenas and his team were fined $25,000 apiece Tuesday by the league because he has not been talking to the media during the preseason, including before and after exhibition games.

The three-time All-Star point guard became one of the NBA's most popular players thanks in part to his engaging personality and a willingness to speak his mind, including via a wide-ranging blog.

But he stopped producing the blog and steadfastly has been refusing to do interviews since the Wizards held their official media day on Sept. 28. Asked by a reporter last week when he'd begin speaking again, Arenas said it would happen only after the NBA tells him he has to talk.

It was at that media day that Arenas signaled his intention to keep quiet, declaring, "I'm not the entertainer anymore."

AP

Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas (0) drives against Detroit Pistons forward Chris Wilcox (9) in the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"I don't feel like speaking anymore. I just want to go out there and play," he said that day. "If I'm not going to get fined, I don't think you're going to hear me again. I don't have a blog. I don't have a tweeter. When I was entertaining, all you guys focused on was my words. Now I'd rather you just focus on my basketball."

Team spokesman Scott Hall said Tuesday that neither Arenas nor the Wizards would have any comment on the fines.

After scoring 24 points in the Wizards' 101-98 exhibition victory over Detroit in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Tuesday night, Arenas twice declined to comment on the fine.

"Both teams played hard," he said, offering few words in the locker room after the game. "I feel fine."

Arenas is returning after playing a total of only 15 games during the past two seasons following three operations on his left knee over 1 1/2 years. The last surgery came in September 2008, and later that month, Arenas ducked out of Washington's media day without talking—drawing fines of $15,000 each for him and his team.

Arenas is entering the second season of an $111 million, six-year contract.

His health is considered key to the Wizards' turning things around after a 19-63 season in 2008-09.

Limbaugh already down a vote in bid to buy Rams

This photo provided by Rush Limbaugh shows Limbaugh in his Palm Beach, Fla. radio studio, the last week of Sept., 2009. AP

BOSTON (AP)—Rush Limbaugh's bid to buy the St. Louis Rams ran into opposition within the NFL on Tuesday, when Colts owner Jim Irsay vowed to vote against him and commissioner Roger Goodell said the conservative commentator's "divisive" comments would not be tolerated from any NFL insider.

"I, myself, couldn't even consider voting for him," Irsay said at an owners meetings. "When there are comments that have been made that are inappropriate, incendiary and insensitive ... our words do damage, and it's something that we don't need."

Limbaugh has long been a hero of conservatives and villain to the left, thriving on his place in the political spectrum while establishing himself as one of the most successful broadcasters in history. But the NFL tries to avoid controversy, as Limbaugh learned in 2003 when he was forced to resign from ESPN's Sunday night football broadcast after saying of Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb: "I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well."

Goodell repeatedly distanced the league from Limbaugh's statements on Tuesday, calling them "polarizing comments that we don't think reflect accurately on the NFL or our players."

"I have said many times before that we are all held to a higher standard here," the commissioner said. "I think divisive comments are not what the NFL is all about. I would not want to see those kind of comments from people who are in a responsible position within the NFL. No. Absolutely not."

According to transcripts posted on his Web site, in 2007 Limbaugh also said: "The NFL all too often looks like a game between the Bloods and the Crips without any weapons. There, I said it." That comment, and others, resurfaced this month when he revealed he is teaming with St. Louis Blues owner Dave Checketts to bid on the Rams.

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Limbaugh said he was forced to respond because "the totally made-up and fabricated quotes attributed to me in recent media reports are outrageous and slanderous." He also noted that he would be a minority owner in the prospective group, adding he is from Missouri and was saddened when the Cardinals left for Arizona.

"I am happy to be involved in an effort to keep the Rams in St. Louis. I love the National Football League, I eagerly discuss it and promote it and I greatly admire the men who play in the league. They are the best at what they do," he wrote. "It is regrettable that something I have dreamed about for years has taken this course. But the fight is worth it to me. I love the National Football League."

The Rams updated the league on their potential sale on Tuesday but specific bidders were not discussed, Goodell said.

"They're not certain they are even sellers," New York Giants co-owner Steve Tisch said, adding that he expected a decision by the end of the season. "We can't speculate on potential owners because they have not brought up any names to put before ownership. It's out there, but without confirmation from the Rams or the Rosenbloom family, frankly, we don't know who the potential buyers are."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft referred questions about Limbaugh to the commissioner. Texans owner Bob McNair said anyone who meets the "normal criteria" is a candidate to own a team.

"But our vetting process is very thorough," he said.

Prominent blacks are already lining up against Limbaugh, including the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith, who is black, urged players to speak out against Limbaugh's bid, and several have already said they would not play for his team.

Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank echoed Goodell's comments and noted that the league and the union had a similar stance. Blank also said he wouldn't expect Limbaugh, if the deal went through, to tone down his lucrative radio show to avoid running afoul of the league.

"I find that highly unlikely," he said.

Prospective owners must be approved by 24 of the league's 32 teams. Irsay is the first owner who has stated unequivocally he would reject Limbaugh because he made a habit of "demonizing individuals."

"I met Rush only once. He seemed like a nice guy to me and all those kind of things," Irsay said. "It's bigger than the NFL. As a nation, and as a world, we've got to watch our words and our thoughts. They can do damage."

John Daly to play in Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—John Daly will play in the Australian Open and Australian PGA golf tournaments in December after recovering more quickly than expected from a rib injury.

The two-time major winner said Wednesday he was reversing a decision announced in September to withdraw from the Australian tournaments. A swift recovery has allowed him to return to competitive golf earlier than expected.

"My recovery from stem cell surgery has been closely monitored by my doctor and I have been cleared to begin playing competitively in two weeks," Daly said in a statement.

"As such, I have added the Viking Classic to my 2009 U.S. schedule plus have accepted invitations to play in the 2009 Australian Open and 2009 Australian PGA Championship.

"I regret the confusion the injury process has caused but I'm relieved things have begun moving in the right direction."

Daly will play in the Australian Open at the New South Wales Golf Club at La Perouse in Sydney from Dec. 3-6, in a field that will include Greg Norman and defending champion Tim Clark.

A week later he will join major winner Vijay Singh and defending champion Geoff Ogilvy in the Australian PGA at the Hyatt Regency Coolum course in Queensland state.

During his trip to Australia last year, Daly missed three consecutive cuts and made headlines for more than his golf.

He received a suspended fine from the PGA of Australia at the Australian Open after taking a spectator's camera and throwing it against a tree.

Open organizers took no action, saying Daly had been bothered by the man, who was taking photos at close range despite a ban on cameras at the course.

Former IOC president Samaranch checked at hospital

MONACO (AP)—Former International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch underwent hospital exams after feeling ill at a sports conference on Tuesday.

The 89-year-old Spaniard, who headed the IOC from 1980 to 2001, was attending the Sportel international sports television festival. He was treated at the Princess Grace Hospital Centre in Monaco.

"It was a slight reaction to fatigue without importance and now he's resting in his hotel," Samaranch spokeswoman Annie Inchauspe told Spanish news agency Efe, denying reports on L'Equipe's Web site that he had a mild heart attack. "He was only in the hospital for some minutes."

IOC spokesman Mark Adams said he had no information about a heart attack, and that Samaranch had gone to the hospital for "a minor ailment."

Earlier this month, Samaranch was in Copenhagen to push Madrid's unsuccessful bid to host the 2016 Olympics. The Spanish capital lost to Rio de Janeiro in the final round of the vote.

Samaranch, succeeded as IOC president by Jacques Rogge, spent two days in a Madrid hospital two years ago after a dizzy spell. He was hospitalized in Switzerland in 2001 for "extreme fatigue" and in Barcelona for high blood pressure. He has also received regular dialysis treatment for kidney trouble.

As honorary IOC president for life, Samaranch has continued to attend IOC meetings.

Goodell: NFL watching Cable investigation

BOSTON (AP)—Oakland Raiders coach Tom Cable will be subject to NFL discipline if he is implicated by police in their investigation of an alleged assault on an assistant coach.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday that workplace violence is specifically identified in the league's personal conduct policy, and if Cable is charged with any crimes, he could be punished by the NFL.

Goodell expects to receive a report "in the next couple weeks" on the Napa, Calif., police investigation, which is in the hands of the district attorney. He said the league is "allowing the criminal process to go forward for some period of time" before potentially getting involved.

"What are the facts?" Goodell asked at the fall owners meetings. "There's a legal and criminal process going on to determine what are the facts."

But criminal charges need not be brought against Cable for the NFL to discipline him if he broke the league's conduct rules.

Defensive assistant Randy Hanson has alleged that he was punched by Cable during training camp and his jaw was broken. Hanson also has claimed Cable threatened to kill him during the August attack.

Cable has denied the allegations and has been advised to stay silent.

Napa County DA Gary Lieberstein said his office continues to review the case and does not expect any announcement on whether charges will be filed this week.

The meetings began with Goodell delivering a report in which he emphasized the strong TV ratings the NFL has attracted through five weeks. Asked if the economic downturn actually has helped the NFL's popularity, Goodell said it was "one of the theories because we continue to be available on free television and fans are able to gather around the TV set."

But will they be able to do so in 2011? The owners opted out of the collective bargaining agreement with the players last year and if a new one is not reached, a labor stoppage is possible that year.

Plus, next season would have no salary cap, a situation Goodell reiterated the owners are preparing for.

The league and NFLPA have met several times, but no negotiations on major economic issues have taken place.

"The union got a proposal two weeks ago," he said. "This is a long and thorough process and we're hoping to get a response in the next week or two."

Goodell, who missed one of the meetings with the NFLPA, said union leadership has not asked for teams to open their books during any negotiating sessions.

"Are you kidding me?" NFLPA spokesman George Atallah responded to The Associated Press.

Goodell said the league is looking into claims by the San Francisco 49ers that the New York Jets tampered with the Niners' first-round draft pick, Michael Crabtree.

Kapileo sets score to beat in October Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ulysis Kapileo is a step away from clinching the RGA October Ace after ruling the qualifying tournament on Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Kapileo carded a net 69 and was one of the only two members of the Refaluwasch Golf Association to post a net score in the 60s in the weekend tournament. The 22-handicapper was consistent at the Talafofo course with his 44 and 45 on the front and back nines, respectively.

If Kapileo's net score remains unbeaten after RGA's second tournament for this month, he gets to keep the October Ace title.

Tying Kapileo's score was Cui Lian, but the latter lost in the tiebreak on the front nine. Lian, had a net 35 in the first nine holes against Kapileo's 33.5. The Chinese golfer sports a 16 handicap and recorded a gross 47 on the front before redeeming himself on the back nine with a 2-over par 38.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ulysis Kapileo, seen here in action, topped the RGA qualifier last Saturday.

Participants in the RGA October Ace qualifying tournament pose for a group photo on Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

There was a three-way tie for third to fifth place with Tom Tebuteb winning the tiebreak on the front nine scorecard and notching the No. 3 spot. Nick Sablan dropped to fourth, while Tars Olopai settled for fifth. All three golfers tallied identical net scores of 71.

The 22-handicapper Tebuteb had a gross 93, built on a 45 in the first nine holes and a 48 in the last. Sablan, who has a four handicap, recorded the second best gross score of 3-over par 75 after shooting a 39 on the front and an even par 36 on the back. Olopai, an 8-handicapper, struggled on the front with his 42, but played better on the back with a 1-over par 37.

Fifteen other RGA members joined Saturday's qualifier. They are Jess Wabol (72 net), Jesse Seman (72), Joe Saurez (72), Vince Attao (74), Joe Wabol (83), Bae Young Man (73), Jordan Kossam (83), John Rebuenog (80), Tony Togolifoi (77), Dwayne Stephens (75), Ray Villagomez (78), Manny Mangarero (74), Louie Tilipau (72), Jack Sablan (73), and Ray Tigilau (84).

Nick Sablan won the closest to the pin contest on hole Nos. 6 and 15.

Meanwhile, RGA turned over a $200 check donation to Bank of Guam for the victims of tsunami in Samoa. The club will also collect canned goods that will be donated to their fellow Pacific Islanders.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129 or Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

PERSEVERANCE

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after school. When I first ran at the track it was embarrassing to watch. I was the slowest of them all," said Mancao, who developed his endurance in middle and long distance races while playing soccer during his elementary days.

"However, I kept coming every session and ran by myself on weekends and did morning runs before 6am on weekdays because the school bus would arrive at 6:30am. After school and once I am done with my homework, I worked out between 5pm to 7pm," he said.

With his constant training and help from fellow runners and coaches of the Northern Marianas Athletics, Mancao became competitive and made it to the CNMI Team that participated in the 2006 Micronesian Games.

He had another unremarkable performance in the Micro Games, but this did not prevent him from continuing his training.

"It was a heart breaking experience, so I trained by myself after the Games were over, while the rest of the athletes took a break. Then it was when I ran during the cross-country season that I realized I got faster and had a shot in winning the season. From then on I trained harder and set personal best times and broke some records. In 2007, I became stronger and faster and started to race against elite runners in the CNMI," Mancao said.

Stepping-up in Land Down Under

In almost five years of doing middle distance running, Mancao considered his stint in the 2009 Oceania Regional Championships/Micronesian Athletics Championship in Australia in August this year as his biggest achievement so far.

He won a silver medal in the 3,000m steeplechase and saved a bronze in the 5,000m run.

"I'd like to think I did a good job in the Oceania championships in Queensland, as I medaled in all the events I joined despite not getting used to the weather condition there," said Mancao.

Mancao almost quit the 5,000m race, as his throat was drying up, and his nose and mouth were numbed while running in a cold weather. NMA's Elias Rangamar was with Mancao and told him there's no way he can quit, so eventually the young runner crossed the finish line in third place behind teammate Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Guam's Toby Castro.

Triathlon and future plans

Mancao watched a triathlon event for the first time in 2005 during the XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"The race fascinated me. Putting three sports (swimming, biking, running) in one race and finishing in hours was crazy and I was challenged to try it," he said.

Memories of his struggling days in athletics came back when Mancao started getting involved in triathlon.

"I was a horrible swimmer when I started. I also struggled in biking, and running is the only thing I am good at," said Mancao, who later survived the pains of being a novice in triathlon through the help of fellow athletes.

He said Fred Camacho helped him improve his skills in biking and he continues to race (running and biking) with him on weekends. Mancao also attended swim clinics and read books and watched videos about the sport.

"In 2008, I did my first triathlon through Tagaman and finished 30th. Crossing the finishing line was an emotional and a lifetime experience. After finishing I was very exhausted, but that started by addiction to the sport, as I wanted to do more races," Mancao said.

Mancao said he wants to do both triathlon and middle distance running even if he reaches his prime. He added getting involved in sports gives him direction in life and helps him hurdle tough challenges.

His love for sports even encourages him to pursue a higher education, which will be useful for athletes like him.

"I plan to take up a course involving physical therapy or sports medicine. I plan to return to this beautiful island after obtaining my degree and work in CHC or open a clinic for the youth," Mancao said.

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ball, Rugby 7, swimming, weightlifting, golf, table tennis, lawn tennis, vaa, and indoor volleyball.

CNMI sports federations have yet to signify their intention to send athletes/teams to New Caledonia, as they are still waiting for actions on the proposed changes on eligibility rules.

One of the proposed changes is adapting the "grandfathering system," which would allow athletes who had competed in the past Pacific and Mini Games in the past or from 2005 and earlier to participate in the 2010 Pacific Games

The "grandfathering system," and other recommendations were discussed at the Pacific Games Council's General Assembly in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, last month during the 2009 Pacific Mini Games. However, the proposed changes were referred to a charter review committee, which will not meet until next year to make recommendations to the council.

In related news, White said 2010 Pacific Games organizers are working on providing travel packages for delegates to the big event in New Caledonia. The NMASA president said organizers are in negotiation with Air Caledonie and other airline companies serving the French territory. He added, organizers are likely to help arrange chartered flights for athletes from Micronesia.

MAKE

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Saipan Southern High School. The team's roster includes Niki Castro, Ines Kasian, Loveme Phillip, Josh Diaz, Jun Sambile, Yumi Rabauiliman, and Kaegel Taitano.

Make it Bali's win prevented Special Delivery from booking back-to-back victories. Special Delivery, who had a 0-2 start in the league, snapped their losing skid last week after outclassing the depleted O-No.

In two other matches on Tuesday night, Pwipwise and Shogunai posted similar wins.

Pwipwise played its toughest game so far, pulling off a 2-1 victory over Just Do It in the second game. The league-leading Pwipwise, which improved its record to 4-0, took the opening set by only two points, 19-21.

A surging Just Do It then stunned Pwipwise in the second set, as the former cruised to a 21-12 triumph. The third and deciding set was a tougher game for both teams, as Pwipwise won by only two points, again, 15-13.

Shogunai also took the longer route to victory when it had to sweat hard in the third set before downing Git It in the last match. Shogunai had a seven-point winning margin in the first set, 21-14 and played extended minutes in the second set before bowing to Git It, 21-23.

The Scott Eck-anchored Shogunai then kept its composure in the latter part of the deciding third set to eke out a 15-12 victory.

Meanwhile, six teams will return to action in Week 4 of the fall league tonight after drawing byes on Tuesday.

In the curtain-raiser, the winless Manta Diver will take on Angamwas at 5:30pm. Angamwas is hoping to regain its form after losing to Chenutt Crew last week, while Manta Diver is aiming to enter the win column after three futile attempts.

In the second game at 6:30pm, O-No will also try to return to its winning ways against the Random Radicals, which is undefeated in three games. Chenutt Crew will go for back-to-back wins when it duels Fisingan in the last offering of the night at 7:30pm.

GUBAN

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in solo eighth place with his net 78, built on a gross score of 91.

Two golfers, Rene Batallones and Jhun Calma, carded a net 79 with the latter having a better gross score of 89 against the former's 93. Batallones sports a 10 handicap, while Calma has 14.

There was also a tie for 11th place, as Nestor Siruelo and Mike Crus drilled identical net scores of 80. The 14-handicapper Siruelo had a gross 94, three strokes ahead of Cruz's 97.

John Matsumoto struggled at the Marpi course as his gross 101 and 18 handicap left him with a net score of 83, while Sandy Palon also had a tough time in last month's tournament, tallying only a net 86. The 22-handicapper Palon posted a gross 108.

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga welcomed new member Larry Pascual in last month's tournament with the latest addition to the club debuting with a net score of 96.

2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge

Photos by: ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kevin Rhee returns to Matthew Lopez during their Level 3 semis match in the 2009 Saipan Tennis Challenge on Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Michael Jones aims for a backhand return during a warm-up in the Level 1 division.

Matthew Lopez calls Kevin Rhee's service out during the second set of their semis game in Level 3 singles.

Jeane Bracken goes for a double backhand return against Sakiko Eda during their women's 4.0 singles game.

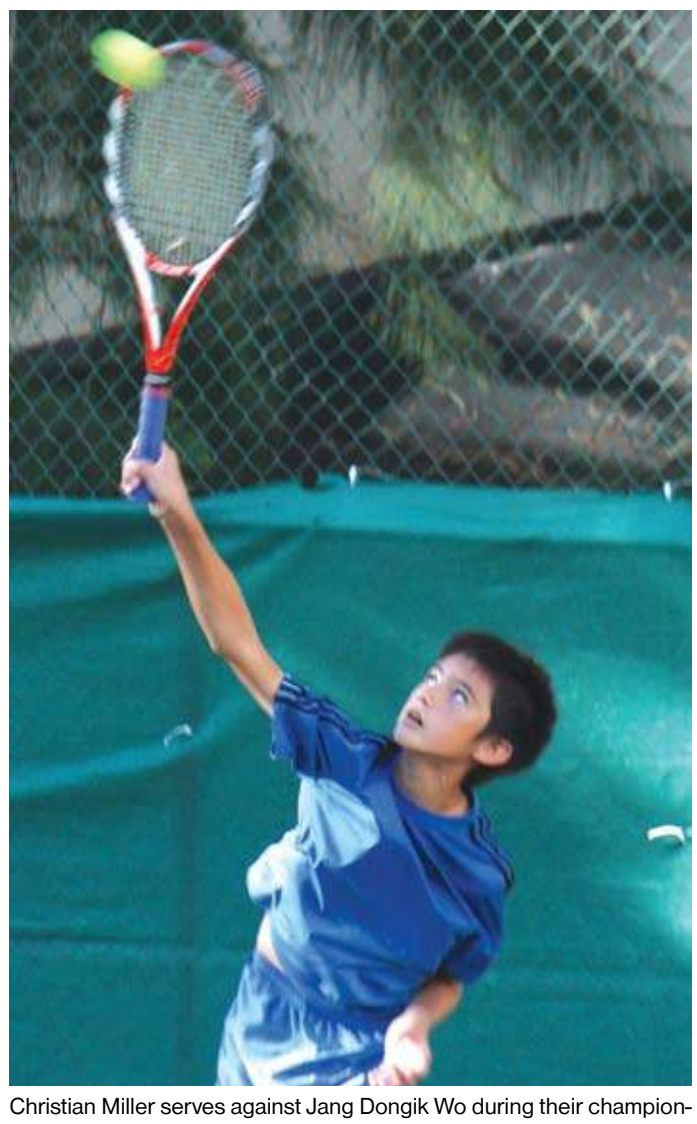
Alex Park plays Michael Jones in a warm-up game as the two await their respective singles matches on Saturday.

Rafael Jones hits a low ball during a scrimmage against Daniel Park.

Dong Espanola eyes the ball during his semis match against Christian Miller in the men's 4.0 singles division.

Sakiko Eda in action during her game against Jeane Bracken in the round-robin women's 4.0 singles division.

After his morning match, Daniel Park duels Rafael Jones in a short scrimmage.



Christian Miller serves against Jang Dongik Wo during their championship game in the men's 4.0 singles.

Kapileo sets score to beat in October Ace

Ulysis Kapileo is a step away from clinching the RGA October Ace after ruling the qualifying tournament on Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Angels, Dodgers step closer to Freeway Series

Ssshhhh, don't let it get out, but the prospect of a Freeway World Series is a tantalizing prospect to Torii Hunter, of all people.

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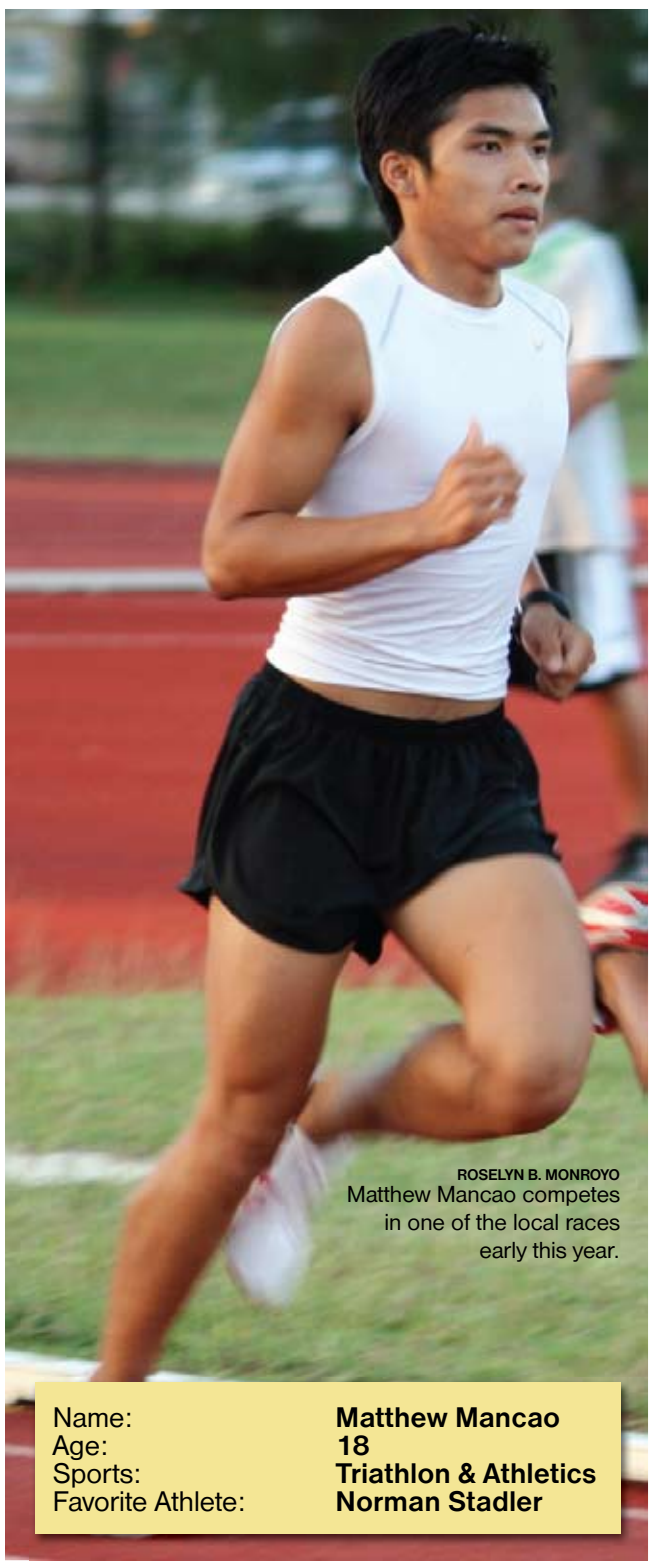
Perseverance pays off for Freedom



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matthew Mancao competes in one of the local races early this year.

Name:	**Matthew Mancao**
Age:	**18**
Sports:	**Triathlon & Athletics**
Favorite Athlete:	**Norman Stadler**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matthew Mancao was one of the participants in the Mieko Carey Swim Lesson Fundraiser last week at the Palms Resort pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Success in sports, like in life, is not achieved overnight and this holds true to CNMI athlete Matthew "Freedom" Mancao.

Mancao is one of the top youth middle distance runners in the Commonwealth, having his fair share of accomplishments among CNMI's bets in on and off-island races since joining the sport of athletics in 2006.

He had represented the CNMI in the 2006 Micronesian Games and 2008 Micronesian Athletics Championships in Queensland, Australia, and Marianas High School in the 2007 Asia Pacific Invitational Track and Field Championships. The 18-year-old athlete is also a familiar figure in various middle distance races in the CNMI and is slowly making his mark in triathlon.

This weekend, he will compete in the half marathon event of the 2009 Guam Gatorade Ko'ko' Road Race and is aiming to surpass his personal best time of one hour and 29 minutes.

Asked Mancao what was his time when he joined his first race, and he will probably tell you to forget about it.

He had an uneventful first race in 2006, but in the succeeding years, he pushed himself hard to be where he is now.

Slowest runner

After getting frequent invitations to try running at the Oleai Sports Complex from former sprinter Darrel Roligat, Mancao finally gave in, joining a group of runners in January, 2006.

"Darrel would call me to practice with him

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Mando Guban takes Fil-Taga Sept. Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mando Guban will get a shot at the 2009 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year award after winning the September Ace tournament played at the Marianas Country Club late last month.

All top placers in the monthly tournaments get tickets to the 2009 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year event and only three slots are left after Guban took the ninth spot.

Guban earned a berth for the year-end golf tournament after shooting a net 69 and besting 15 other Fil-Taga members who joined the monthly event. The 15-handicapper fired a gross 84 in the Marpi course for a two-shot lead over runners-up Dionysus Geva and Ted Malaran.

Geva, a 22-handicapper had a gross 93 for a net 71 and defeated Malaran in the scorecard tiebreak for second place. Malaran, who also had a net 71, holds an 18 handicap and carded a gross 89.

The third best net score in the tournament belonged to the 24-handicapper Jason Gatdula, who drilled a gross 98 for a net 74. Greg Gamboa and Richard Meimban both recorded the fourth best net score of 76. Gamboa, a 26 handicapper, tallied a gross 102, while the 25-handicapper Meimban posted a gross 101.

Only one Fil-Taga golfer nailed a net 77, as the 11-handicapper Manny Corcuerra scored a gross 88. Gil Faller, a 13 handicapper, was also

See GUBAN on Page 26

Per diem in 2011 Pacific Games now down to $15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Here is a bit of good news for CNMI teams/athletes interested in competing in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

White

Michael White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, said per diem charges for the quadrennial event was lowered down to $15 from $30.

White, during NMASA's monthly meeting last week, said the change in per diem charges will help ease the financial burden of athletes/teams who will be participating in the 14th edition of the Pacific Games.

The multi-sports meet in the French territory will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10. Competitions will take place in the 10 cities/towns in New Caledonia, including the Games' main hub and the country's capital, Noumea.

A total of 30 sports were proposed for the 2010 Pacific Games, but only 28 will be accepted and 12 of them are compulsory. Required sports are athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, foot-

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Make It Bali snaps skid in NMIVA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Make It Bali broke into the win column of the PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIFA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League 2009 after sweeping Special Delivery on Tuesday night on the PIC sandcourt.

The Jenn Brown-captained Make It Bali dropped its first three games in the 12-team league before getting off to a strong start in its fourth match en route to an easy victory over Special Delivery.

Make It Bali won by seven points in the opening set, 21-14, and played even better in the second set, nailing a 21-8 triumph to secure its first win. Make It Bali completed the sweep with a 15-9 victory in the third set.

Besides Brown, Make It Bali is composed of seven other players, two of them are students of

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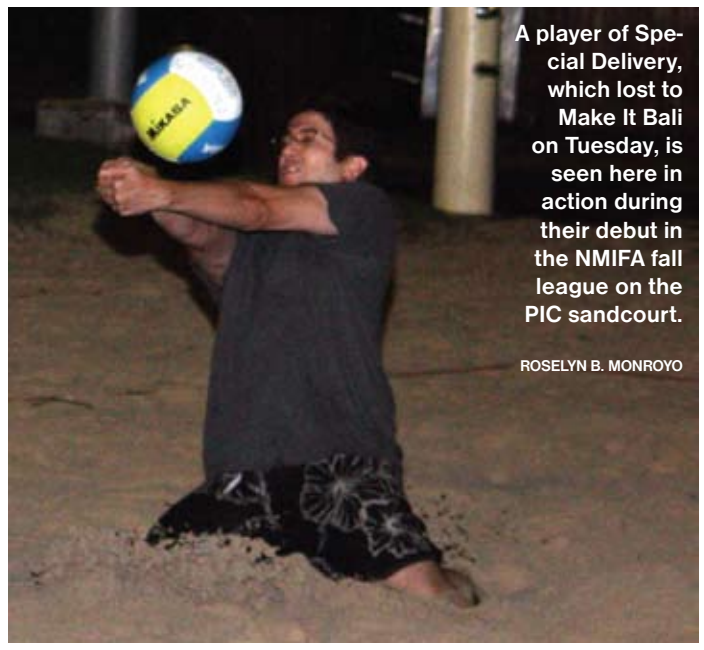

A player of Special Delivery, which lost to Make It Bali on Tuesday, is seen here in action during their debut in the NMIFA fall league on the PIC sandcourt.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO